The Apostle and Prophet Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle and Prophet Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Annual Time

## September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

### The First Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 1:12-19a

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

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

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first. This is how I obtained mercy, so that in me as ‘the first’, Jesus Christ might show all his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. Now, to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-27

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:25-33a

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

As John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’ Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

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

### The Second Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 1:12-2:10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:5-13

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

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:19-26

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

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

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

### The Third Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### 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.

fter some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

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

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

### The Fourth Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 1:1-14

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

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, even so our consolation also overflows through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your consolation, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, knowing that, since you are partakers of the sufferings, you are also partaker of the comfort. For we do not desire to have you uninformed, brethren, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia: we were extremely oppressed, beyond our power, so much that we even despaired of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves but [only] in God who raises the dead. He who delivered us from such a great death and continued to deliver; we hope that he will also deliver us. You also help by your supplication on our behalf; so that thanksgiving will be offered for the gift bestowed on us by means of many.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:8b-12

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:36-42

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

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not to delay in coming to help us!” So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

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

### The Fifth Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

### August 29 (30) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 1

Joyful Tune

**The Feast of Nairouz**

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

St. Militeus, the 3rd Patriarch of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

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

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have something to answer to those who boast in appearances—not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new! But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and who gave to us the ministry of reconciliation. What I mean is that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not imputing sins, but having entrusted us with the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ: it is as if God was making [his] supplication through us: we beg you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God! God made him who knew no sin to become sin for our sake; so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

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

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:16-34

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

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

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

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

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being!’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We want to hear you again on this matter.”

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

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

### August 30 (31) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 2

Joyful Tune

**Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist**

St. Dasya the Soldier and Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### 12:1-12

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

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

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Stricking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, “Stand up quickly!”, and Peter’s chains fell off from his hands. The angel said to him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals!”, and Peter did so. Then the angel said, “Put on your cloak, and follow me!” And Peter went out and followed the angel, but he did not realized that what was being done by the angel was real, thinking that he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, and it opened to them by itself. Having gone through, they went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

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

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

### August 31 (Sept 1) / Tho-out 3 through September 4 (5) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 7

August 31 (September 1) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 3, see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

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

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

Joyful tune. St. Macarius, the 69th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Verena.

September 2 (3) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 5, see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Joyful tune. St. Sophia the Martyr.

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

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

September 4 (5) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 7, see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

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

### September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8

Joyful Tune

St. Zachariah the Priest and Martyr

**Moses the Archprophet**

St. Diomede the Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:17-27

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

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, “In Isaac will your seed be called”. Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph’s and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment. By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing to share ill-treatment with God’s people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time. He considered the disgrace of the Anointed one greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on the reward. By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, but he persevered as if he was seeing him who is invisible.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:21-29

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

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

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

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

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

September 6 (7) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 9, see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Joyful tune. St. Pisora the bishop and martyr.

September 7 (8) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 10, see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

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

September 8 (9) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 11, see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Joyful tune. St. Basilides the martyr.

September 9 (10) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 12, see November 5 (6) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 9, page 90.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. **Council of Ephesus.**

September 10 (11) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 13, see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Joyful tune. **St. Metthias II**, 90th Patriarch of Alexandria. Miracle performed by St. Basil.

September 11(12) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 14, see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Joyful tune. St. Agathon the stylite. Sts. Felix, Rigula, and Exuperius of the Theban Legion.

September 12 (13) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 15, see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

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

### September 13 (14) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 16

Joyful Tune

**Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection**

Translocation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:1-10

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

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:1-10

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

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

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

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

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

\*This verse is found only in Coptic.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:31-43

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

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

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

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not to delay in coming to help us!” So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

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

### September 14 (15) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 17

Palm Tune

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

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

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

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,*

*I will bring the discernment of the discerning to nothing.*

Where is the wise? Where is the expert of the law? Where is the debater of this world? Has not God ridiculed the wisdom of this world? Since in God’s wisdom, the world through its ‘wisdom’ did not know God, it was God’s good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe. Jews ask for signs and Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks. However, to those who are called, (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, because God’s ‘foolishness’ is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Consider your calling, brethren, that not many [among you] were wise according to the flesh, not many powerful, and not [many] of noble birth. Nevertheless, God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are ‘wise’. [Yes], God chose the weak things of the world in order to put to shame the things that are strong. God also chose the lowly things of the world, the things that are despised, and the things that are not, so that he might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh should boast before God. But by God’s doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; so that, according as it is written, “He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-25

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

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

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

\*or “bishop” or “episcopos”

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:34-43

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

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

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

### September 15 (16) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 18

Palm Tune

Second Day of the Feast of the Cross

St. Prophyrius the Martyr

Commemoration of St. Stephen the priest, and St. Niketa the martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 6:11-18

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

See with what large letters I write to you with my own hand! It is those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh who are trying to compel you to be circumcised; and it only so that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. In Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation {is significant}. To those who live by this rule, may there be peace and mercy upon them, and on the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:8-18

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

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

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name.” They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

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

### September 16 (17) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 19

Palm Tune

**Third Day of the Feast of the Cross**

St. Gregory the Armenian

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 2:6-19

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

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

Be careful not to let anyone rob you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to human tradition and the basic things of the world, and not after Christ. For in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and in him who is the head of all principality and power, you are made full. In him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, by casting off the sinful nature in the circumcision of Christ. You have been buried with him through baptism in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, but he made you alive with him by forgiving us all our trespasses and by wiping out the handwriting of ordinances which was against us. He removed it out of the way, nailing it to the cross, having exposed the principalities and powers, making a public display of them and triumphing over them.

Therefore, let no one judge you in matters of eating, drinking, or regarding a feast day, new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Let no one rob you of your prize by false humility and a religion of angels, dwelling on things which such a one has not seen, vainly puffed up by a carnal mind. Such a person is not holding firmly to the head, from whom the whole body, being supported and knit together through the joints and ligaments, grows with the growth given by God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:13-21

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

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

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

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

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 3:12-21

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

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

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

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

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

### September 17 (18) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 20

See January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

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

### September 18 (19) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 21

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Theotokos

**St. Cyprian the bishop and martyr**

St. Justina the martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 1:1-11

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

Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ;

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-11

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-17

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

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

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

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

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

### September 19 (20) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 22 through September 22 (23) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 25

September 19 (20) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 22, see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

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

September 20 (21) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 23, see September 18 (19) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 21, page 46.

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

September 21 (22) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 24, see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

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

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

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

### September 23 (24) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 26

Annual Tune

Annunciation of the nativity of St. John the Baptist

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-17

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

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

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

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

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. This is why there is so much eagerness on my part to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for

he Greek. For in the Gospel God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:2b-7

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

The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was [still] in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. And God said to him, ‘Leave your land and your relatives, and come into a land which I will show you.’ This is how Abraham came out of the land of the Chaldaeans and lived in Haran. From there, when his father was dead, God moved him into this land, where you are now living. He gave Abraham no inheritance in this land, no, not so much as to set his foot on it. But God had promised that he and his descendants would possess this land, even when Abraham was still without child. God spoke in this way: that Abraham’s descendants would live as aliens in a foreign land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated for four hundred years. ‘I will judge the nation to which they will be in bondage,’ said God, ‘and after that [time], will they come out and offer me divine service in this place.’

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

### September 24 (25) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 27 through September 31 (Oct 1) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 3

September 24 (25) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 27, see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

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

September 25 (26) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 28, see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Sts. Apater and Eraee the martyrs.

September 26 (27) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 29, see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

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

September 27 (28) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 30, see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

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

September 28 (29) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 1, see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193

Annual tune. St. Anastasia the martyr.

September 30 (31) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 2, see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

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

September 31 (Oct 1) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 3, see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

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

## October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

### The First Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### 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 ofGod 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 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.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:36-43

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-15

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

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

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:13-4:6

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:24-15:3

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

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

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

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

### The Third Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 16:12-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-17

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

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:4-12

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

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

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

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

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

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

### The Fourth Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### 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.

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:17-5:11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

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

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

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

### The Fifth Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

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

October 1(2) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 4 see March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13, page 215.

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

October 2 (3) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 5 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. St. Paul the Patriarch of Constantinople.

October 3 (4) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 6 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

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

October 4 (5) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 7 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. St. Paul of Tamoah.

October 5 (6) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 8 see November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

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

October 6 (7) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 9 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

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

October 7 (8) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 10 see March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13, page 215.

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

October 8 (9) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 11 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

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

### October 9 (10) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 12

Annual Tune

Commemoration of Archangel Michael

**St. Matthew the Evangelist**

St. Demetrius, the 12th Patriach of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:11-19

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvationwhich is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly ejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:12-18

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

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon’s porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

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

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

### October 10 (11) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 13

See May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. St. Zachariah the ascetic.

### October 11 (12) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 14

Annual Tune

St. Philip the Deacon and Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Titus 2:11-3:7

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

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:5-13a

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

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:26-39

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

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

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

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

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

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

October 12 (13) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 15 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Pantilemon the physician and martyr.

October 13 (14) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 16 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Agathon the 39th patriarch of Alexandria.

October 14 (15) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 17 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Dioscorus II the 31st Patriarch of Alexandria.

October 15 (16) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 18 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. Assembly of the Council of Antioch against Pau lof Samosta**. St. Theophilus the 23rd Patriarch of Alexandria.**

October 16 (17) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 19 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

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

October 17 (18) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 20 see January 27 (28) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 2, page 196.

Annual tune. St. John colobus.

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

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

### October 19 (20) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 22

Annual Tune

St. Luke the Evangelist

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 4:2-18

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

Persevere in prayer, even in vigils of thanksgiving. Pray for us as well, so that God may open to us a door for the word, [an opportunity] to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray also that I may reveal it as clearly as I should. Live wisely before those who are ‘outside’, and make the most of your time. Let your speech always be pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to properly answer those who have questions.

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 20 (21) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 23 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual Tune. **St. Joseph** the 52nd Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Dionisius of Corinth.

October 21 (22) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 24 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

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

October 22 (23) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 25 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

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

October 23 (24) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 26 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

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

### October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:17-31

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

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, “In Isaac will your seed be called”. Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph’s and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment. By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing to share ill-treatment with God’s people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time. He considered the disgrace of the Anointed one greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on the reward. By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, but he persevered as if he was seeing him who is invisible. By faith, he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch them. By faith, they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land and when the Egyptians tried to do likewise, they were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient because she had had received the spies in peace.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:12-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

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

### October 25 (26) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 28 through October 31 (November 1) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 4

October 25 (26) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 28 see November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

Annual tune. Sts. Marcian and Mercurius the martyrs.

October 26 (27) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 29 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

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

October 27 (28) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 30 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

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

October 28 (29) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 1 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

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

October 29 (30) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 2 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Peter, the 27th Patriarch of Alexandria.

October 30 (31) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 3 see November 5 (6) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 9, page 90.

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

October 31 (November 1) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 4 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

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

## November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

### The First Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### 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 considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:37-11:1

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

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

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

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### 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 which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

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

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

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

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

### The Third Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

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

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

We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith is growing wonderfully and your mutual love for all is overflowing. Therefore, in the Churches of God, we boast about you for your patience, faith in all your persecutions and for the afflictions which you endure. This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, so that you may be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you too suffer. It is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us. This will be when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, bringing vengeance to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes to be glorified in his holy ones and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:3-11

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

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:30-42

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

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

Hearing this, they were enraged and determined to kill them. But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!”

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

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

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

### The Fourth Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### 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 Fifth Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

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

Novmber 1 (2) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 5 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

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

Novmber 2 (3) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 6 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

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

Novmber 3 (4) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 7 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

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

### November 4 (5) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 8

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Four Incorporeeal Beasts

St. Pierius, the Deacon of the Catechetical School of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:21b-13:2

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

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

Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the Church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which pleads better than Abel’s [blood].

See that you do not refuse to listen to the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they rejected him who warned on the Earth, we will certainly not escape if we turn away from him who warns from heaven! Then, his voice shook the earth, but now, he has promised with these words, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens.” The words “yet once more” indicates the removal of the things that are shaken since they are created things. But those things which are not shaken remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2-14

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

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

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’

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

### November 5 (6) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 9

Annual tune

**St. Isaac**, the 41st Patriarch of Alexandria

Assembly of the Holy Council of Nicaea

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:13-5:5

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

For the promise to Abraham and to his seed that he should be heir of the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations.” This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become “the father of many nations”, according to what had been spoken, “And so will your seed be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was “credited to him for righteousness.” Now, it was not written that “it was accounted to him” for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered up for our sins, and was raised for our justification. Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:15-24

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

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

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

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 tothe ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabasto go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

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

### November 6 (7) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 10 through Novmeber 7 (8) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 11

Novmber 6 (7) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 10 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

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

Novmber 7 (8) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 11 see September 23 (24) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 26, page 48.

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

### November 8 (9) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 12

Annual Tune

Commemoration of Archangel Michael

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:1-2:4

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

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf*

*and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son*

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

*“Let all the angels of God worshipi him.”*

*Of the angels, Godk says:*

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.a*

*But of the Son he says:*

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

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

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

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

*companions.*

And:

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

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:1-13

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

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

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings. But the archangel Michael, when he contend with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring against the devil an evil-speaking judgment, but said, “May the Lord rebuke you!” Yet, these people speak evil of things they know nothing about. What they do understand (by natural power, like the creatures without reason), these things will destroyed them. Woe to them! They have followed the path of Cain and they have thrown themselves after the error of Balaam for the sake of money, and they have perished in Korah’s rebellion. These people are like hidden and rocky reefs in your agape meals, when they feast with you. They are shepherds who feed themselves without fear, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved to the age.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:1-20

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

Now, there was a certain man in Caesarea, whose named was Cornelius. He was a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man who feared God with his entire household. He gave generous alms to the people and always prayed to God. At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him, and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

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

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

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

Now, on the next day, as they were on their way and approached the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a great sheet let down on the earth by four corners and descending to him. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter, kill and eat!”

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

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

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

### November 9 (10) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 13 through Novmeber 10 (11) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 14

Novmber 9 (10) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 13 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Timothy, the bishop of Ansena. **Abba Zacharias**, the 64th Patriarch of Alexandria.

Novmber 10 (11) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 14 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual Tune. St. Martin, bishop of Tours

### November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15

Annual Tune

St. Mena the Wonder-Worker and the Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:3-14

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

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

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord,*

*do not faint when you are reproved by him;*

*for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens,*

*and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:44-8:1a

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

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*‘Heaven is my throne,*

*and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

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

*‘or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?’*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

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

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

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

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

### November 12 (13) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 16

See June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16, page 271.

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

### November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17

Annual Tune

St. John Chrysostom

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:22

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

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

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

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing. Do your utmost to visit me soon, because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went toGalatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as wells as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metalworker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:17-38

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

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

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch overyourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver,or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive!’”

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

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

### November 14 (15) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 18 through Novmeber 17 (18) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 21

Novmber 14 (15) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 18 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

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

Novmber 15 (16) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 19 see March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13, page 215.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of **Sts. Sergius and Bacchus**. The commemoration of the St. Bartholomew’s preaching in the oasis.

Novmber 16 (17) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 20 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

Annual tune. **St. Ananus**, the 2nd Patriarch of Alexandria. The consecration of the Church of St. Theodoros of Shatb and St. Theodoros Meshreky.

Novmber 17 (18) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 21 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Cosmos, the 54th Patriarch of Alexandria. **St. Gregory the Wonder-Worker**. Sts. /Alphaeius, Zachaeus, Romanius, John, Thomas, and Victor, the martyrs.

### November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22

Annual Tune

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, their brothers and their mother, the martyrs.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:14-27

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

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints [are always in accordance with God.]\*

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

\*[] excluded in lectionary.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-17

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

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

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

### November 19 (20) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 23

See November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. **St. Cornelius** the Centurion. Consecration of the Church of St. Marina.

### November 20 (21) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 24

Annual Tune

Commemoraion of the Twenty-Four Presbyters

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

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

Presbyters who rule well should be accounted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in preaching and teaching. As the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Do not receive an accusation against a presbyter, except at the word of two or three witnesses. Reprove those who have sinned in the sight of all, so that the others may also be in fear. I command you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels: observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay your hands hastily on anyone and do not be a participant in someone else’s sins. Keep yourself pure. Do not drink only water but use a little wine for your stomach and because of your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious long before they come to judgment while others are discovered only later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Those who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of all honor, so that God’s Name and our doctrine may not be brought into disrepute. Slaves whose masters are believers should not despise them because they are brethren. Rather, they should them serve them because those who have a share in the benefit [of their work] are believing and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:6-12

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

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

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

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

### November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25

Annual Tune

St. Philopater Mercurius

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

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

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience. Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, “His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is worthless.” Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are withoutunderstanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only

within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did notreach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But “he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

### November 22 (23) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 26

See November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. **Sts. Velerian and Tiburcius**, the martyrs. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

### November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27

Annual Tune

**St. James the Persian**, the martyr

The consecration of the Church of St. Victor the martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 1:1-19

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

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other “Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own ageamong my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:13-21

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

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

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

### November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28

Annual Tune

St. Sarapamon the Bishop of Nokiu and the martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 7:18-8:13

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

There is a cancellation of an earlier commandment because of its weakness and uselessness, because the law made nothing perfect. And there is the introduction of a better hope through which we draw near to God. Moreover, our Lord was not made priest without the taking of an oath (although others became priests without any oath). But with an oath, God says of him:

*The Lord swore and will not change his mind,*

*‘You are a priest forever,*

*according to the order of Melchizedek.’*

Because of this, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Many, indeed, were made priests [in the past] because they are prevented from continuing in office when they die. But he, because he lives forever, holds a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is also able to save to the very end those who draw near to God through him, because he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, “Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,*

*and with the house of Judah;*

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,*

*in the day when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of the land of Egypt;*

*for they did not continue in my covenant,*

*and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

*After those days, says the Lord;*

*I will put my laws into their mind,*

*I will also write them on their heart.*

*I will be their God,*

*and they will be my people.*

*They will not teach every man his neighbor,*

*and every man his brother, saying: ‘Know the Lord,’*

*for all will know me,*

*from their least to their greatest.*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness;*

*I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.*

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John (all)

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

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

Paul then came to Derbe and 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.

### November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection

**St. Peter the High Priest** and the Seal of the Martyrs

St. Clement the bishop of rome and the martyr.

St. Catherine of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 4:14-5:14

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

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for assistance in time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed for their sake in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for [their] sins. The high priest can deal gently with those who are ignorant and going astray since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for the sins for the people as well as for himself. Moreover, nobody assumes this honor by himself but one is called by God, just as Aaron was. Likewise, Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was God who said to him:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.*

As he says also in another place,

*You are a priest forever,*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through suffering. Having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the cause of eternal salvation, named by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

We have many things to say about these things but it is hard to explain because you have become slow at understanding. For although by this time you should be teachers, you still need to have someone teach you [even] the basic principles of God’s oracles. You have come to need milk, and not solid food! Everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness; such a person is a baby. But solid food is for those who are fully grown, who have trained their senses to discern good and evil.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:1-9

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:1-24

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

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

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Stricking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, “Stand up quickly!”, and Peter’s chains fell off from his hands. The angel said to him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals!”, and Peter did so. Then the angel said, “Put on your cloak, and follow me!” And Peter went out and followed the angel, but he did not realized that what was being done by the angel was real, thinking that he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, and it opened to them by itself. Having gone through, they went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

When Peter came to himself, he exclaimed, “Now I truly know that the Lord has sent out his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, “You are crazy!” When she insisted that it was so, they said, “It is his angel!” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, “Tell these things to James, and to the brethren.” Then he departed, and went to another place. As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

At that time, Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. With one accord, they came to him, and, having befriended Blastus (the king’s personal aide), they asked for peace because their country depended on the king’s country for food. On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. The people shouted, “The voice of a god, not of a man!” Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

But the word of God grew and multiplied.

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

### November 26 (27) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 30 through Novmeber 30 (December 1) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 3

Novmber 26 (27) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 30 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. **St. Acacius the Patriarch** of Constantinople. The Consecration of the Church of Sts. Cosman, Damina, their borthers, and their mother. St. Macarius the martyr.

Novmber 27 (28) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 1 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **St. Peter the Iberian.** The Consecration of the Church of St. Shenoute the Archimandrite.

Novmber 28 (29) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 2 see June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16, page 271.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Abba Hor the monk.

Novmber 29 (30) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 3 see April 26 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 1, page 231.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.

November 30 (December 1) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 4 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Andrew the Apostle.

## December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

### The First Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-17

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

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

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

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

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. This is why there is so much eagerness on my part to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-2:2

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:30-34

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

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

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

### The Third Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:35-50

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

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

*‘Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,*

*the star of your god Rephan,*

*the figures which you made to worship.*

*I will carry youa way beyond Babylon.’*

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

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

*‘Heaven is my throne,*

*and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

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

*‘or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?’*

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

### The Fourth Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 9:6-33

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

But it is not as though the word of God has come to nothing. For those of ‘Israel’ are not all Israel, And just because they are Abraham’s seed, not all are children. But, “In Isaac, will your seed will called.” That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as descendants. For this is a word of promise, “At the appointed time I will come, and Sarah will have a son.” Not only so, but Rebecca also conceived by our father Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God’s purpose of election might stand, not of works, but of him who calls), it was said to her, “The elder will serve the younger.” Even as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

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

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

*I will call them ‘my people,’ which were not my people;*

*and her ‘beloved,’ who was not beloved.*

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

*‘You are not my people,’*

*There they will be called ‘children of the living God.’*

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

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

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

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

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

As Isaias has said before:

*Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us a seed,*

*We would have become like Sodom,*

*And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

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

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

*And no one who believes in him will be disappointed.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:24-3:3

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:8-22

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

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

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

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

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

### The Fifth Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

### December 1 (2) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 4 through December 18 (19) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 21

December 1 (2) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 5 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **Nahum the Prophet**. St. Victor the martyr. St. Isidore the martyr.

December 2 (3) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 6 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Patlas, the priest and martyr. **St. Abraham,** the 62nd Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 3 (4) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 7 see January 27 (28) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 2, page 196.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Matthew the Poor.

December 4 (5) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 8 see March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13, page 215.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Theoclas, the 13th Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Barbara and Juliana the martyrs. **Sts. Isi and Tecla** the martyrs. St. Samuel of El-Zalamun.

December 5 (6) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 9 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Peomin the confessor.

December 6 (7) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 10 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Translacation of the Relics of St. Severus of Antioch. **St. Nicholas of Myra**, the confessor.

December 7 (8) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 11 see June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16, page 271.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Pijimi

December 8 (9) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 12 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. **St. Hedra the bishop** of Aswan. St. John the confessor. Assembly of a council in Rome in 249 A.D.

December 9 (10) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 13 see September 23 (24) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 26, page 48.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Commemoration of the Conception of **St. Anna the mother of the Theotokos**. St. Barsanuphius the martyr. St. Apracuous the ascetic. Consecration of the Church of St. Misael the pilgrim.

December 10 (11) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 14 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **Sts. Behnam and Sarah**, his sister. St. Christodoulos the martyrs. Sts. Simon of Manoufia, Abba Hor, and Abba Menas the elder, the martyrs. St. Ammonias the bishop.

December 11 (12) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 15 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. Gregory the Armenian.

December 12 (13) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 16 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Gideon the Judge. Sts. Haroudia, Annanias, and Khousi the martyrs of Akhmim. The consecration of the Church of **St. James the Persian**.

December 13 (14) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 17 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Luke the Stylite.

December 14 (15) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 18 see October 19 (20) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 22, page 70.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Translocation of the relics of **St. Titus the Apostle**. St. Hercules the martyrs and St. Philemon the presbyter.

December 15 (16) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 19 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. St. John the bishop of El-Borolos.

December 16 (17) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 20 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Haggai the Prophet.

December 17 (18) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 21 see December 31 (January 1) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 5, page 156.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Barnabas the Disciple.**

### December 18 (19) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 22

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ Tune

**Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel**

St. Anastasius, the 36th Patriarch of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 2:5-18

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

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name tomy brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*

and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery. Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham’s seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:21-33

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

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?”

They replied, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say.” Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

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

### December 19 (20) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014

December 19 (20) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **King David**. St. Timothy the pilgrim.

### December 19 (20) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 23 After A.D. 2014

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ Tune

**King David**

St. Timothy the Pilgrim

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:32-40

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

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earthAll of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-13

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

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

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

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:22-36

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

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*‘I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’*

Brethren, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us even to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that from the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, [declaring] that his soul would not be left in hades and that his flesh would not see decay. God has raised this Jesus [back to life], and we are all witnesses of this fact. Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but as he himself declared:

*‘The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’*

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with assurance that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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

### December 20 (21) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 24 through December 23 (24) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 27

December 20 (21) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 24 see December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4, page 153.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **St. Ignatius, the Patriarch of Alexandria**. St. Philogonus the Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 21 (22) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 25 see January 27 (28) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 2, page 196.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Abba John Kame.

December 22 (23) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 26 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. **St. Anastasia the martyr**. St. Juliana the martyr.

December 23 (24) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 27 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ tune. Abba Bisadi the bishop and martyr.

### December 24 (25) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 28

Annual Tune

**Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**

The Martyrdom of 150 men and 24 women from Antipolis

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 3:15-4:18

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

Brethren, even speaking of a human example; when a person’s will has been confirmed, it cannot be cancelled or altered (even though it is only human contract). Now, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. [Notice that] he does not say, “to seeds,” as if there were many, but as of one, “to your seed,” which is Christ. What I am saying is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years after the covenant previously confirmed by God in Christ, does not cancel it to make the promise of no effect. If the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from the promise; but in fact, God granted it to Abraham by way of a promise.

What then is the law about? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was established through the angels, by the hand of a mediator. Now, there is no mediator when there is only one party, and God is one. Therefore, is the law against God’s [own] promises? Certainly not! If a law had been given which could make alive, then certainly, righteousness would have been from the law. But in fact, the Scriptures declared all things to be captive under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe, that is by faith in Jesus Christ. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, locked up to wait for the faith which would later on be revealed. Hence, the law was our tutor which was to bring us to Christ, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor, and you are all God’s children, through faith in Christ Jesus! For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.

Here is my point: as long as the heir is a child, he is no different than a slave, although being the owner of everything. The heir, is under tutors and trustees until the day appointed by the father. Likewise, when we too were children, we were held in bondage under the elemental principles of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born to a woman, born under the law, so that he might redeem those who were under the law and so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” Now, you are no longer slaves, but children; and if children, then heirs of God through Christ.

In the past, as you did not know God, you were in bondage to those who by nature nare not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather come to be known by God, why do you return to the weak and miserable primordial forces whose slaves you want to be all over again? You observe days, months, seasons, and years... I am afraid concerning you, that I may have wasted my labor for you. I beg you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have never treated me wrongly, but you know that it was an illness that first gave me an opportunity to preach the Good News to you. Even though my condition was a trial for you, you did not despise nor reject me; but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus!

What has happened to the blessing you enjoyed? Indeed, I bear witness to you that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me! And now, have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? Those people pursue you, but not for good. No, they desire to cut you off from us, so that you might eagerly seek after them. But it is always good to be zealous in a good cause, not only when I am present with you!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:1-14

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

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater 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. Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we can discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:13-25

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

Now, Paul and his company set sail from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Continuing from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia. There, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down [to listen]. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent them a message, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak!”

So Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you [Gentiles] who fear God, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper when they stayed as aliens in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. For a period of about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, God gave them their land as an inheritance, and this took about four hundred fifty years. After this, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin [who ruled] for forty years. After removing him, he raised up David to be their king, even bearing witness to him, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ From this man’s seed, God has brought salvation to Israel, according to his promise. This was before the coming of Jesus, when John first preached the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’

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

### December 25 (26) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 29

Joyful Tune

**The Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:1-2:4

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

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf*

*and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son*

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

*“Let all the angels of God worshipi him.”*

*Of the angels, Godk says:*

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.a*

*But of the Son he says:*

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

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

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

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

*companions.*

And:

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

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-17

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:26-33a

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

Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this messagee 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 Jesusf 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.

### December 26 (27) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 30

Joyful Tune

**The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**

St. John the Hegoumen

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 4:19-5:1

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

My little children, I am again in labor over you, until Christ is formed in you! I wish that I could be with you in person now, to change my tone, because I am confused about you. Tell me, since you desire to be under the law, {why} do you not listen to the law?

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the servant, and one by the free woman. However, the son by the servant was born according to the flesh, but the son by the free woman was born through a promise. These things contain an allegory which represents two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children to slavery, and that is Hagar. This Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and it corresponds to the Jerusalem that exists now, in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and the mother of us all. As it is written:

*Rejoice, you barren [woman] who bears no child;*

*Break forth and shout, you that do not travail.*

*For more are the children of the desolate than of her who has a husband.*

Brethren, we are, just as Isaac, children of promise, and it is now as it was then: the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one who was born according to the Spirit. So it is even now! However, what does the Scripture say?

*“Throw out the servant-girl and her son, because the son of the servant will not inherit with the son of the free woman.”*

And so, brethren, we are not children of a servant, but children of the free woman!

Therefore, stand firm in the freedom by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of slavery!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-5:4

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:36-43

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1

Joyful Tune

The Third Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

**St. Stephen the Protodeacon and Protomartyr**

St. Lawindianus the Martyr

The 8000 Martyrs of Akhmim

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:12

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

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham’s seed? So am I! Are they Christ’s servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches. If anyone is weak, do I not feel weak too? If anyone stumbles, do I not burn with indignation? But if I must boast, I will boast about those things that have to do my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed unto the ages, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor of King Aretas guarded the city in order to arrest me. But I was let down in a basket along the wall through a window, and this is how I escaped from his hands.

Without a doubt, it is not profitable for me to boast, but I will now discuss visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago, was caught up into the third heaven (whether [it was] in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows). [Yes], I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for anyone to utter. On behalf of such a person, I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. If my intention is to boast, I will not be foolish: I will speak the truth. But now, I shall stop, so that no one may think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me. Because of the tremendous greatness of these revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan that torments me, so that I would not be too exalted. Yes, I should not be too exalted! Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me, but he replied to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” And so, it is with joy that I would rather [find] glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

Therefore, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, necessities, persecutions, distresses, {all this} for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong! I have acted foolishly in this boasting, but you compelled me! I should have been commended by you, because even though I am nothing, I am not in anything inferior to the very best apostles. Truly, the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all patience, in signs, wonders and mighty deeds.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

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

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 6:1-7:2

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

Now, in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily service [of food distribution]. The Twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not appropriate for us to abandon the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will appoint them over this necessary task and devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

These words pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid their hands on them. Thus, the word of God spread and the number of disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem, and a large number of [Levitical] priests became obedient to the faith.

Full of faith and power, Stephen performed great wonders and signs among the people. But some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) along with Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from Cilicia and Asia reacted. They began debating with Stephen but were not able to withstand the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke. Then, they secretly convinced [some] men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God!” Having stirred up the people, the presbyters and the scribes came against him and arrested him. They brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin and produced false witnesses who said, “This man is always uttering blasphemies against this holy place and the law. We have even heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us!” All the members of the council gazed at Stephen and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The high priest asked, “Are these things so?”

Stephen answered, “Brothers and fathers, hear me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was [still] in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

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

### December 28 (29) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 2

See June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Joyful tune. **St. Theonas**, the 16th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Callinicus the bishop and martyr.

### December 29 (30) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 3

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Slaying of the Infants of Bethlehem

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 13:11-14:4

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

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full- grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

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

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:22-30

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

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

fter some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

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

### December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4

Joyful Tune

St. John the Evangelist

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

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

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

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

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

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

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-2:6

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

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

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

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-16

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

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

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

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

### December 31 (January 1) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 5

See November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

Joyful tune. St. Eugenius the soldier and martyr.

## January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

### The First Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 15:4-19a

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

For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Therefore, I will give you praise among the Gentiles,*

*And sing to your Name.*

Again he says:

*Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.*

Again:

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!*

*Let all the peoples praise him.*

Again, Isaias says:

*There will be the root of Jesse,*

*He who arises to rule over the Gentiles;*

*In him the Gentiles will hope.*

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:1-11

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

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

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:24-15:3

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

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 5:2-10

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

Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit to you! Yes, once again, I testify to everyone who receives circumcision that he is [now] under duty to accomplish the whole law! You who desire to be justified by the law are no longer under Christ: you have fallen away from grace. As for us, through the Spirit, we wait by faith for the hope of righteousness, since in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value, only faith working through love. You were running so well! Who came to block your way so that you would not obey the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you! [Remember], a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough! I have confidence toward you in the Lord that you will take no other view; but whoever troubles you will bear his [own] judgment, whoever that [person] may be.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:18-24

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

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:22-29

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

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

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

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

### The Third Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### 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 righteousa 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 soldtheir possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need.

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

### The Fourth Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### 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 tous, 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 knowhim who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2:18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!” But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

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

### The Fifth Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

### January 1 (2) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 6

Joyful Tune

**The Feast of the Circumcision**

The Ascension of Elias into Heaven

St. Basil the Great, the bishop of Caesarea

St. Macianus, the 8th Patriarch of Alexandria.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 3:1-12

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

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord! To me, writing the same things to you is not tiresome - it is safe! Beware of the dogs, beware of evilworkers, beware of the false circumcision! We are ‘circumcised’ if we offer divine service to God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, although I myself could have confidence even in the flesh! If anyone thinks that he has {a reason to have} confidence in the flesh, I could even more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews. As regards the law, I was a Pharisee; as far as zeal is concerned, I was persecuting the Church, and as for the righteousness which is based on the law, [I was] found blameless.

However, these things which I thought were gain to me, I have counted as loss for Christ! Yes, without a doubt, I consider all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things. I consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own (from the law), but through faith in Christ (the righteousness which is from God by faith). Yes, may I know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the communion of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. I am not saying that I have already obtained these things or that I am already made perfect; but I press on to take hold of [the prize] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-21

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:13-21

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

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

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

### January 2 (3) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 7 through January 4 (5) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 9

January 2 (3) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 7 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. St. Silvester, the Patriarch of Rome.

January 3 (4) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 8 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. Consecration of the Church of St. Macarius in his monastery. St. Andronicus, the 37th Patriarch of Alexandria. **St. Benjamin**, the 38th Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 4 (5) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 9 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. St. Abraham the ascetic.

### January 5 (6) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 10

Annual Tune

**The Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of Theophany**

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 1:1-17a

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe’s household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” “I follow Kephas,” or, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

Indeed, Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Good News.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-19

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 16:25-34

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

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were loosened. The jailer, awaken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household!” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

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

### January 6 (7) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 11

Joyful Tune

The Glorious Feast of Theophany

#### The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### Habakkuk 3:2-19

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

Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid;

I considered Your works and was greatly astonished.

You shall be known between the two living creatures;

In the approaching years You shall be acknowledged;

You will be revealed when the time comes.

When my soul is troubled,

You will in wrath remember mercy.

God will come from Teman,

The Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees. Pause.

His excellence covered the heavens,

And the earth was full of His praise.

His brightness will be like the light;

Horns will be in His hand,

And He established a mighty love of His strength.

Before His face a word will go forth;

It will go out by the shoes of His feet.

The earth stood and was shaken to and fro;

He looked and the nations melted away.

The mountains were shattered by force;

The everlasting hills wasted away.

In the place of distresses, I saw His eternal ways.

The tents of the Ethiopians will be dismayed,

Even the tents of the land of Midian.

Were you angry, O Lord, with the rivers?

Or was Your wrath against the rivers,

Or was Your fury against the sea,

That You will mount on Your horses,

And Your chariot is salvation?

“You will stretch your bow against scepters,” says the Lord. Pause.

The land of rivers shall be torn asunder.

Many peoples will see you and be in travail,

Dispersing waters from its course.

The abyss uttered its voice;

Raising its form on high.

The sun arose, and the moon stood in its course;

At the light of Your arrows they went forth,

At the flashing of Your gleaming weapons.

You will bring low the land with threatening;

You will break the nations in wrath.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people,

To save Your anointed ones.

You brought death upon the heads of the lawless;

You brought bonds upon their neck. Pause.

You cut off the heads of rulers in amazement;

They shall tremble in it.

They will break their bridles

Like a poor man eating secretly.

You ran your horses into the sea,

Churning up the many waters.

I kept watch, and my belly trembled

From the sound of the prayer of my lips;

And trembling penetrated into my bones.

And my very frame of mind was troubled.

I shall rest in the day of tribulation

To go up to the people of my sojourn.

For though the fig tree will not bear fruit

And there be no grapes on the vines;

The labor of the olive tree fail

And the fields yield no food;

Though the sheep have no pasture

And there be no oxen in the cribs;

Yet I will glory in the Lord;

I will rejoice in God my Savior.

The Lord God is my strength;

He will direct my feet to the end;

He will set me upon high places,

So to conquer by His song.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 35:1-2 (Literal translation from the Coptic)

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

Let the wilderness of Jordan rejoice, for it has been given the glory of Lebanon, and the honour of Carmel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-5

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

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 9:1

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Baruch 3:36-4:4

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

This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved. Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men.

She is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation.

O Israel, we are blessed, for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 36:25-29a

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

[The Lord says,]\* I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I shall be your God. I shall save you from all your uncleanness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Copitc, lacking in LXX including OSB.

##### Ezekiel 47:1-9

Again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then he brought me back to the outer door of the house, and there was water, flowing from under the open air of the chamber toward the east; and the water was flowing from under the right side court, from the south to the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces east; and there was water coming down, running out on the right side, in the direction in which a man went forth opposite. There was a measure in his hands, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure; and he passed through the water. It was the water of remission. Again he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and the water came up to the waist. Again he measured a thousand, and it could not be crossed; for it broke into a rushing torrent which man cannot pass through.

He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, along the bank of the river there were very many trees on this side and the other. Then he said to me, “This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is to the east. Then it goes down upon Arabia and reaches as far as the sea to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. So it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Titus 2:11-3:7

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

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:5-21

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

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 leadto death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:6

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

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

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

### January 7 (8) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 12

Joyful Tune

**The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of Theophany**

Archangel Michael

St. Theodore the Martyr

St. Anatole the Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of his glory!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:26-39

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

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

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

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

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

### January 8 (9) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 13

Joyful Tune

**The Feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee**

St. Theopholus the Monk

St. Demiana the Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:3-16

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

Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And so, do not let sin rule in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace! What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be so! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:20-25

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

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:3-13

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

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

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

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

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

### January 9 (10) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 14 through January 16 (17) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 21

January 9 (10) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 14 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. **St. Arselidas the monk**. St. Maximus, the brother of St. Domatius.

January 10 (11) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 15 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 18)

Annual tune. Obadiah the prophet.

January 11 (12) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 16 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. **St. Philotheus the martyr**. St. John, the 48th Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 12 (13) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 17 see June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16, page 271.

Annual tune. **St. Domatius the brother of St. Maximus**. St. Yousab, bishop of Garga.

January 13 (14) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 18 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. James the Syrian.

January 14 (15) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 19 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Finding of the relics of Sts. Apahor, Pisoura, and their mother, Ampera. The thousands of martyrs of Antinou.

January 15 (16) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 20 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. **St. Prochorus the Disciple**. Consecration of the Church of St. John Chrysostom. Sts. Bahn and Eklog, the martyrs.

January 16 (17) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 21 see April 26 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 1, page 231.

Annual tune. **The Dormition of our Lady, the Holy Theotokos Mary.** St. Gelaria, daughter of Emperor Zeno. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

### January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22

Annual Tune

St. Anthony the Great

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 3:20-4:9

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

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:19-26

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

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

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

### January 18 (19) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 23 through January 20 (21) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 25

January 18 (19) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 23 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. **St. Timothy the Apostle**. St Cyril IV, the 110th Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 19 (20) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 24 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. **St. Mary the ascetic**. St. Psati the presbtyer.

January 20 (21) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 25 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune**. St. Peter of Scetis**. St. Askala the ascetic.

### January 21 (22) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 26

Annual Tune

**The Fourty-Nine Martyrs, the Elders of Scetis (Sheheet)**

St. Anastasia the Ascetic

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:3-14

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

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

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord,*

*do not faint when you are reproved by him;*

*for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens,*

*and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:3-13

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

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

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

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

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

### January 22 (23) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 27 through January 24 (25) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 29

January 22 (23) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 27 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. **St. Serapion the martyr**. Archangel Sourial. Translocation of the relics of St. Timothy the Apostle. St. Apepham the martyr.

January 23 (24) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 28 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. **St. Clement of Rome**, the martyr. St. Kaou the martyr.

January 24 (25) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 29 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. **St. Eksanie the asetic.** St. Seriakus the martyr.

### January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30

Annual Tune

Sts. Pistis, Helpis, Agape and Their Mother Sophia, the Martyrs

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 5:8b-21

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

Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth. Discern what is well-pleasing to the Lord! Have no fellowship with the vain works of darkness, but rather, expose them for what they are. It is a shame even to speak about the things which these people do in secret! But all things are revealed when they are exposed to the light. Therefore, he says:

*“Awake, you sleeper, arise from the dead,*

*and Christ will shine on you.”*

Therefore, watch carefully how you live, not as unwise, but as wise [people], making good use of time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine – this is reckless living - but be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs! Sing and chant to the Lord in your heart; always giving thanks for everything in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, even to God the Father. [Finally], be in mutual subjection in the fear of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:5-14

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

This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as jointheirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.”

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:5-14

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

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

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

### January 26 (27) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 1

See November 5 (6) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 9, page 90.

Annual tune. **Eccumenical Council of Constantinople**. Consecration of a Church dedicated to St. Peter the Seal of the Martyrs.

### January 27 (28) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 2

Annual Tune

**St. Paul the Hermit**

St. Longinus the Abbot

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:7-25

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

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

But I exhort you, brethren, take this word of exhortation well, for I have written to you briefly. Know that our brother Timothy has been freed. If he arrives soon, I will see you with him. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all! Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:12-21

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

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

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

### January 28 (29) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 3 through January 31 (February 1) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 6

January 28 (29) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 3 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. St. James the ascetic.

January 29 (30) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 4 see October 19 (20) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 22, page 70.

Annual tune. St. Agabus the Disciple.

January 30 (31) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 5 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. St. Agrippus, the 10th Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Bishay and Apanoub. **Abba Apollo, the friend of Abba Abib.** St. Hippolytus of Rome.

January 31 (February 1) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 6 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. Apparition of the body of St. Hippolytus, the Patriarch of Rome. **Sts. Apakir, John, the three virgins and their mother, the martyrs.**

## February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

### The First Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:3-9

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

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

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### 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 Third Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### 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,f*

*8do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,*

*as in the day of the trial in the wilderness,*

*where your fathers tested me by proving 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 Fourth Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 1:1-16

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe’s household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” “I follow Kephas,” or, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

When temptations come, let no one say, “I am tempted by God,” because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:5-13

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

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

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

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

### The Fifth Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 201.

### February 1 (2) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 7 through February 28 (29) / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 4

February 1 (2) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 7 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. **St. Alexander**, the 43rd Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Theodore, the 45th Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 2 (3) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 8 see January 1 (2) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 6, page 170.

Joyful tune. **The Entrance of the Lord into the Temple.** St. Simeon the Elder. The 21 martyrs of Lybia.

February 3 (4) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 9 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. **St. Barsuma**, the father of the Syrian monks. St. Paul the Syrian, the martyr.

February 4 (5) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 10 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Annual tune. **St. James the Son of Alphaeus**, St. Justus, the martyr. St. Isidor of Pelusim. St. Philo,the bishop of Persia, and the martyr.

February 5 (6) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 11 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Fabianus, the Patriarch of Rome. Abba John, the 94th Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 6 (7) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 12 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of Archangel Michael. **St. Gelsius the monk.**

February 7 (8) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 13 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. Sts. Sergius of Atripe, his father, mother, sister, and companions, the martyrs. St. Timothy III, 32nd Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 8 (9) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 14 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. **St. Severus of Antioch.** St. James, the 50th Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 9 (10) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 15 see June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16, page 271.

Annual tune. **Zaccaraias the prophet.** Consecration of the first Church for the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia. St. Pahnoutius.

February 10 (11) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 16 see September 23 (24) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 26, page 48.

Annual tune. St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist.

February 11 (12) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 17 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. St. Menas the monk.

February 12 (13) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 18 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. St. Militius, the confessor and Patriarch of Antioch. Consecration of the Church of St. Paul the Simple.

February 13 (14) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 19 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Martianus of Athens to Antioch

February 14 (15) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 20 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Peter II, 21st Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Basil, Theodore, and Timoty of Alexandria, the martyrs.

February 15 (16) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 21 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Onesimus, the slave of Philemon, the martyr. St. Gabriel, the 57th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Zachariah, the bishop of Sakha.

February 16 (17) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 22 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Maruta.

February 17 (18) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 23 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. St. Eusebius, son of St. Basilides, the martyr.

February 18 (19) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 24 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Agapius the bishop. Sts. Timothy and Matthias, the martyrs.

February 19 (20) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 25 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. Sts. Archippus, Philemon, and Lycia, the new martyrs. St. Quona and St. Menas, the martyrs.

February 20 (21) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 26 September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 28)

Annual tune. Hosea the prophet. St. Zadok and his Persian companions, the martyrs.

February 21 (22) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 27 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. St. Eustathius the patriarch of Antioch. St. Perpetua the Martyr of North Africa.

February 22 (23) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 28 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Thedorus the Roman.

February 23 (24) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 29 see December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4, page 153.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection. **St. Polycarp the bishop of Smyrna**, the martyr.

February 24 (25) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 30 see May 27 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 2, page 255.

Annual tune. The finding of the head of St. John the Baptist.

February 25 (26) / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 1 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Narcissus the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Alexandrus the martyr. Anba Marcura.

February 26 (27) / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 2 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Macrobius the bishop and martyr.

February 27 (28) / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 3 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116. (Fr. Athanasius Iskander reports this as “see September 13 (14) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 16, page 26”, but St. Shenouda’s Society, and the Ottawa Lectionary agree with November 25 (26).

Annual tune. St. Cosmas, the 58th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Porphyry the martyr. St. Hadid the preist.

February 28 (29) / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 4 see November 5 (6) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 9, page 90.

Annual tune. Council on the Island of Bani-Omar. St. Haboulyous the prince and martyr.

### February 29 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month) 6

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:8-17

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

But now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:16-20

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

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:12b-18

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

These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

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

## March or Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ

### March 1 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 5 through March 8 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 12

March 1 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 5 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Serapamon the ascetic. St. Peter the priest and martyr. St. Eudexia the martyr.

March 2 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 6 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

Annual tune. St. Dioscorus the new martyr. St. Theodotus the bishop.

March 3 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 7 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Sts. Philemon and Apollonius the martyrs. St. Mary of Israel, the martyr.

March 4 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 8 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Matthias the Apostle. St. Julian, the 11th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Arianus the martyr.

March 5 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 9 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. St. Koran. Sts. Abrianus, Amarata his wife, Eusebius, Armanius, and the forty after them, the martyrs.

March 6 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 10 see September 14 (15) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 17, page 29.

Palm tune. The Appearance of the Glorious Cross.

March 7 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 11 see September 18 (19) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 21, page 46.

Annual tune. St. Basil the bishop and martyr.

March 8 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 12 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. Monthly Commemoration of Archangel Michael. St. Demetrius’ virginity revealed. St. Malachius the martyr. St. Glathinos the martyr.

### March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13

Annual Tune.

**St. Dionysius, the 14th Patriarch of Alexandria**

The return of Abba Macarius the Great and Abba Macarius of Alexandria

The Forty Matrys of Sebastia

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

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

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience. Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, “His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is worthless.” Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are withoutunderstanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only

within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did notreach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But “he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with

them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went downto Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

### March 10 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 14 through March 24 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 28

March 10 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 14 see September 18 (19) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 21, page 46.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the martyr.

March 11 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 15 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Sarah of Upper Egypt. St. Elias of Hnes.

March 12 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 16 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Mikhail, the 46th Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 13 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 17 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Lazarus, the friend of Christ, the bishop of Cyprus. St. George the ascetic martyr. St. Sidhom Bishai the martyr. St. Basil, bishop of Jerusalem.

March 14 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 18 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Isidore the martyr.

March 15 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 19 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Aristobulus the Disciple. Sts. Alexander, Agabius, Timol, Dionysius, and Romulus, the martyrs.

March 16 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 20 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Michael II, the 56th Patriarch of Alexandria. The Raising of Lazarus from the dead.

March 17 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 21 see August 6 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 13, page 324.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. Dwelling of our Lord in Bethany. Consultation of the chief preists to put Lazarus to death.

March 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 22 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Cyril of Jerusalem. St. Michael the bishop of Nakada. Joseph of Arimathea.

March 19 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 23 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. Daniel the prophet.

March 20 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 24 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Macarius, the 59th Patriarch of Alexandria. Apparition of the Theotokos at Zeitoun.

March 21 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 25 see October 11 (12) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 14, page 65.

Annual tune. St. Oneishorus the Disciple. St. Matthias, the 100th Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 26 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Eupraxia, a virgin of Rome. St. Peter VI, the 104th Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 23 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 27 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Crucifixion. Abba Macarius the Great. St. Domicos the martyr.

March 24 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 28 see September 13 (14) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 16, page 26.

Annual tune. Emperor Constantine the Great. St. Peter VII, the 109th Patriarch of Alexandria. Abba Sarapamon.

### March 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 29

Joyful Tune

Feast of the Annunciation of the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:1-31

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

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

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

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

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

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

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

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

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

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works ofthe 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 ofthe law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-2:6

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

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

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

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:23-34

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

But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: ‘Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?’ But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?

Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet,for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

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

### March 26 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 30 through March 31 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 5

March 26 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 30 see December 18 (19) / Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 22, page 134.

Annual tune. Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel. Transfer of the Relics of St. James the Persian. Samson the Judge.

March 27 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 1 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. **St. Silvanus the monk.** The Arabs of Upper Egypt attacked the desert of Scetis. Aaron the prophet.

March 28 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 2 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Christopher, the martyr. Pope Youannis IX, the 81st Patrairch of Alexandria.

March 29 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 3 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. John the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Michael, the 71st Patrairch of Alexandria.

March 30 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 4 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Sts. Victor, Decius, Eirene the Virgin, and those with them, the martyrs.

March 31 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 5 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual utne. Ezekiel the Prophet. St. Hepartius the bishop of Gangra, the martyr.

## April or Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ

### April 1 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 6 through April 17 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 22

April 1 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 6 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the appearance of the Lord to St. Thomas. **St. Mary of Egypt.**

April 2 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 7 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. St. Joachim, the father of the Theotokos. St. Macrobius. Sts. Agapious, Theodora and Metruf.

April 3 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 8 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. Agape, Eirence, Shiona, the virgin martyrs. The One Hundred and Fifty Martyrs at the hand of the king of Persia.

April 4 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 9 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113 (according to an Arabic Lectionary. The Ottawa lectionary and St. Shenouda’s Society have: see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.)

Annual tune. St. Zosimus the priest. Commemoration of the miracle at the hand of Pope Shenouti I, the 55th Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 5 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 10 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Annual tune. St. Isaac, the disciple of Abba Apollo. St. Gabriel II, the 70th Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 6 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 11 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Theodora the virgin. St. John, the bishop of Gaza.

April 7 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 12 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Antonios, the bishop of Tamoui.

April 8 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 13 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Sts. Joshua and Joseph, the martyrs. Dionisa the Deaconess and Medius the martyrs. St. Youanni 17th, the 105th Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 14 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Maximus, the 15th Patriarch of Alexandira.

April 10 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 15 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. The Consecration of the altar for St. Nicholas of Myra. The Consecration of the Church of St. Agabus the Disciple. St. Alexandra the Empress. St. mari VI, the 101st Patriarch of Alexandira.

April 11 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 16 see December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4, page 153.

Annual tune. St. Antipas, the bishop of Pergamos, the martyr. The ascension of Enoch the prophet to heaven.

April 12 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 17 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Annual tune. St. James the son of Zebedee, the Apostle. St. Nicodemus.

April 13 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 18 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. St. Arsenius the slave of St. Sousenyous, the martyr.

April 14 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 19 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Simeon the Armenian, the bishop of Persia, the martyr. St. John the martyr. Vizir abu Elaala Fahd ibn Ibrahim an dhis companions, the martyrs. David the monk and martyr.

April 15 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 20 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Paphnuti the martyr.

April 16 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 21 see September 18 (19) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 21, page 46.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Hierotheos of Athens.

April 17 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 22 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. Isaac of Hourin. St. Alexander I, the 19th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Mark II, the 49th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Michael II, the 53rd Patriarch of Alexandira.

### April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23

Annual Tune

Daniel the Prophet

**St. George the Prince of the Martyrs**

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:28-39

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

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 16:16-34

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

As we were going to prayer, it happened that we encountered a certain girl who had a spirit of divination and who brought much gain to her masters by fortune telling. As she followed Paul and us, she cried out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us a way of salvation!” And she did this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned back and said to the spirit, “In the Name of Jesus Christ, I order you to come out of her!” And the spirit came out that very moment. But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These Jewish men are causing disturbance in our city! They teach customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or observe!”

When the crowd also rose up against them, the magistrates had them stripped and flogged. After giving them a severe flogging, the magistrates had them thrown into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a command, he threw them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were loosened. The jailer, awaken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household!” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

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

### April 19 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 24 through April 21 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 26

April 19 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 24 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti I, the 55th Patriarch of Alexandira. St. Sina the soldier and martyr.

April 20 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 25 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Sarah and her two sons, the martyrs. Sts. Paphnouti the Hermit, Theodore the Worshipper, and the One Hundred martyrs.

April 21 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 26 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Sousenios the martyr. St. John VII, the 78th Patriarch of Alexanria.

### April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27

Annual Tune

**St. Victor, the son of Romanus, the Martyr**

St. Joachim, the Father of the Theotokos

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:18-30

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

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

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

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? Buteven if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:23-41

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!”

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” The whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul’s companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today’s riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion.” After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

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

### April 23 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 28 through April 24 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 29

April 23 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 28 see November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

Annual tune. St. Milius, the ascetic martyr.

April 24 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 29 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Erastus the Disciple. St. Acacius the bishop of Jerusalem.

### April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30

Annual Tune

St. Mark the Evangelist and Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:18

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

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

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

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing. Do your utmost to visit me soon, because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went toGalatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as wells as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metalworker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

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

Paul then came to Derbe and 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.

### April 26 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 1

Annual Tune

The Nativity of the Theotokos

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:1-12

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

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John (all)

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

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the 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 1:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### April 27 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 2 through April 30 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 5

April 27 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 2 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. Job the Rigtheous.

April 28 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 3 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Jason the Disciple. St. Otimus the priest. St. Gabriel IV, the 86th Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 29 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 4 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. St. John I, the 29th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. John V, the 72nd Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 30 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 5 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. Jeremias the Prophet.

## May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

### The Third Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-10

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-5:4

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:44-52

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

The next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that God’s word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*‘I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord’s word was spread throughout the entire region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city. They instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their borders. So they shook off the dust of their feet against these people and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy with the Holy Spirit.

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

### The Fourth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### 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 ofyou can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets’ control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John 1-8

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2-18

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

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

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

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

### The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-25

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:1-8

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:1-9

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

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true.

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

### May 1 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 6 through May 4 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 9

May 1 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 6 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. St. Isaac El-Defrawi the martyr. St. Macarius of Alexandria. St. Paphnouti of El-Bandara the presbyter.

May 2 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 7 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Athanasius the Apostolic, the 20th Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 3 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 8 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual utne. St. John of Senhout, the martyr. St. Daniel, the Hegoumen of Scetis (Sheheet).

May 4 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 9 see September 13 (14) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 16, page 26.

Annual tune. St. Helena the Empress. St. John XI, the 89th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Gabriel VIII, the 97th Patriarch of Alexandria.

### May 5 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 10

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Three Holy Youths in the Fiery Furance

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:23-41

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!”

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” The whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul’s companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today’s riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion.” After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### May 6 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 11 through May 14 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 19

May 6 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 11 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Theoclia the wife of St. Justus, the martyr. St. Paphnouti the bishop.

May 7 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 12 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of St. Demiana. The Relocation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom. The appearance of the Cross of Light above Glogotha. St. Mark VII, the 106th Patriarch of Alexandria. Teacher (Mo’allem) Malati the martyr.

May 8 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 13 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

Annual tune. St. Arsanius the tutor of the Emperor’s children.

May 9 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 14 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. St. Pakhom, the father of the Cenobitic Life. St. Epimachus of Pelusium, the martyr.

May 10 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 15 see October 9 (10) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 12, page 63.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Zealot, the Apostle. The Four Hundred Martyrs in Dandara. St. Menas the Deacon.

May 11 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 16 see December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4, page 153.

Annual tune. St. John the Evangelist.

May 12 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 17 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Epiphanius the bishop of Cyprus.

May 13 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 18 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. St. George, the friend of St. Abraam. The Commemoraiton of Pentecost.

May 14 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 19 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

Annual tune. Abba Isaac, the presbyter of the Cells. St. Isidore of Antioch, the martyr.

### May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20

Annual Tune

Abba Ammonius the Anchorite

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 3:4-23

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

When one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything: only God makes it grow. Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor. Indeed, we are God’s coworkers! You are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person’s work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone’s work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone’s work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.

Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s sanctuary, God will destroy him because God’s sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. As it is written, “He has taken the wise in their craftiness.” And also, “The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless.” Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:5-14

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### May 16 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 21 through May 18 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 23

May 16 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 21 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Marcian.

May 17 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 22 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Andronicus the Disciple

May 18 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 23 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

Annual tune. St. Junia the Disciople. St. Julian and his mother, the martyrs.

### May 19 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 24

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Entry of the Lord into the Land of Egypt

Habakkuk the Prophet

St. Bashnouna El-Makari the monk and martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:1-22

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called “uncircumcision” by what is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and member’s of God’s household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-19

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:20-34

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father’s house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: ‘Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?’ But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### May 20 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 25

See November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

Annual tune. St. Colluthus of Antione the martyr. Ibrahim El-Gohari.

### May 21 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 26

Annual Tune

St. Thomas the Apostle

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-21

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### May 22 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 27 through May 26 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 1

May 22 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 27 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. John II, the 13th Patriarch of Alexandira. St. Lazarus, the Beloved of the Lord.

May 23 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 28 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. The relocation of the relics of St. Epiphanius.

May 24 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 29 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Stylite.

May 25 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 30 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Michael I, the 68th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Phorus the Disciple.

May 26 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 1 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Carpus the Disciple. Consecration of the Church of Sst. Leontius of Tripoli. St. Cosman and his companions, the martyrs. St. Epipam the soldier. St. Zikam the martyr.

### May 27 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 2

Annual Tune

Discovery of the Relics of St. John the Baptist

St. John VIII, the 107th Patriarch of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-10

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God’s people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:25-33

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

As John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’ Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm:

*‘You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### May 28 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 3 through May 31 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 6

May 28 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 3 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. **St. Alladius the bishop and martyr.** Anba Abraam the bishop pof Fayum. St. Cosmas, the 44th Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecration of the Church of St. George in the city of Burma. St. Martha the Egyptian.

May 29 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 4 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. **St. Shenousi the martyr**. Sts. Abamoun and Sophia the martyrs. St. John of Heraclia the martyr. St. Apahor the martyr. St. John VIII, the 8th Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 30 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 5 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

Annual tune. **St. James the Confessor**. Sts. Pishoy and Peter ,the martyrs. Consecraiton of the Church of St. Victor.

May 31 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 6 see July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20, page 300.

Annual tune. St. Theodore the monk and martyr. St. Dydimus the Dean of the Catechetical School of Alexandria.

## June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

### The First Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### 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 ofall to enjoy your company for a while. But now, I want you to know that I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints. It has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. Yes, it has been their good pleasure, as they are in debt to them. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, they owe it to them to be of service in material things. After I accomplish this and deliver this harvest to them, I will go to Spain by your way. I know that, when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the Good News of Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:1-9

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:25-13:12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Second Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of

this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

*Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,*

*Which did not enter into the heart of man,*

*These God has prepared for those who love him.*

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God’s Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:1-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:8-22

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother’s womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, “Stand up on your feet!” And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” They called Barnabas “Jupiter,” and Paul “Mercury,” because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, “Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself without witness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Third Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### 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 Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Fourth Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 4:2-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Persevere in prayer, even in vigils of thanksgiving. Pray for us as well, so that God may open to us a door for the word, [an opportunity] to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray also that I may reveal it as clearly as I should. Live wisely before those who are ‘outside’, and make the most of your time. Let your speech always be pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to properly answer those who have questions.

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, “if he comes to you, receive him”), and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, “Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it.”

Here is my greeting: Paul, with my own hand! Remember my chains... Grace be with you! Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-20

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:1-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There, he met a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race. He and his wife Priscilla had recently arrived from Italy because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and since he practiced the same trade (they were tent makers), he lived and worked with them. Every Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was dedicated to preaching, bearing witness to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Then, when the Jews opposed Paul and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and told them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!”

He departed and went into the house of a man named Titus Justus, a [Gentile] devoted to God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Now, Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his entire household; and many Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized. One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Fifth Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 240.

### June 1 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 7 through June 9 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 15

June 1 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 7 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. St. Episkhairon the martyr.

June 2 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 8 see May 19 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 24, page 249.

Annual tune. **Dedication of the Church of the All-Holy and Blessed Virgin.** Sts. Amanda nad her children, the martyrs. St. George the new martyr.

June 3 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 9 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual Tune. **Samuel the Prophet.** St. Lucilianus the martyr. Translocaiton of the relics of St. Mercurius to Egypt.

June 4 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 10 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual Tune. **St. Eudaemon** the martyr. The closure of all Pagan temples by Constantine. St. John XVI, the 103rd Patriarch of Alexandria. The Ordination of St. Demetrius II as the 111st Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 5 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 11 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. **St. Cladius** Stratelates the martyr. Concration of the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Alexandria.

June 6 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 12 see November 8 (9) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 12, page 93.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of **Archangel Michael**. St. Justis, the 7th Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Cyril II, the 67th Patriarhc of Alexanria. St. Euphemia.

June 7 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 13 see August 26 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 3, page 349.

Annual Tune. Commemoration of **Archangel Gabriel**. St John, the bishop of Jerusalem.

June 8 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 14 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St John XIX, the 113th Patriarch of Alexanria. Sts. Apakir, John, Ptolemy and Philip the martyrs.

June 9 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 15 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. Translocaitn of the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist during the tenth year of St. Cyril VI. Consecraiton of the Church of Abba Menas at Maryut.

### June 10 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 16

Annual Tune

St. Onuphrius (Abba Nofer)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-20

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### June 11 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 17 through June 23 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 29

June 11 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 17 After A.D. 1968 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

Annual tune. Return of the relics of **St. Mark the Evangelist** in A.D. 1968. St. Latsoun the monk.

June 12 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 18 see November 25 (26) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 29, page 116.

Annual tune. **St. Damian**, the 35th Patriarch of Alexanria. Inauguration of the New Cathedral fo St. Mark in the Monastery of Anba Reweiss.

June 13 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 19 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. Placement of the relics of St. Mark in the Cathedral of Alexandria in 1968. St. Archelaus the 18th Patriach of Alexandria. **St. Geroge** the New Martyr. St. Bishai Anoub.

June 14 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 20 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. Elisha the prophet.

June 15 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 21 see April 26 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 1, page 231.

Annual tune. Dedication of the first Church for the All-holy and Blessed Virgin in Phillipi. St. Timothy of Memphis the martyr. St. Cedron, the 4th Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 16 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 22 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Concecraiton of the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damina, their mother and their brothers.

June 17 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 23 see January 17 (18) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 22, page 187.

Annual tune. St. Apanoub the Confessor.

June 18 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 24 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. The Strong St. Moses.

June 19 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 25 see December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. St. Jude the Apostle and martyr. St. Peter IV, the 34th Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 20 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 26 see see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22. (Kitchener previously had Tobi 1)

Annual tune. Joshua the Prophet. Consecration of the Church of Archangel Gabriel in Fayoum.

June 21 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 27 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

Annual tune. **St. Ananias** the Disciple and martyr. St. Thomas of Shentalet.

June 22 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 28 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Theodosius, the 33rd Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecraiton of the Church of Abba Sarapamon the martyr, the bishop of Nikios.

June 23 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 29 see May 15 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 20, page 246.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Commemoraiton of the Seven Ascetic Martyrs of Mount Tounar. Sts. Abba Hor, Pishai, and their mother, Theodora, the martys.

### June 24 / Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 30

Annual Tune

Nativiyt of St. John the Baptist

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:8-22

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into Egypt where he died, along with our fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father’s house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### June 25 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 1 through June 26 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 2

June 25 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 1 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Febronia the martyr. Sts. Bioukha and Benjamin, the presbyters.

June 26 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 2 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

Annual tune. St. Thaddeaus the Apostle.

### June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3

Annual Tune

**Abba Cyril the Great**

St. Celestine the Patriarch of rome

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-5:11

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is certain that we groan in this [tent], longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling; so that being clothed we will not be found naked. We who are in this tent are truly groaning as we are burdened; but it is not that we desire to be unclothed; rather, we desire to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now, the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also gave us the pledge of the Spirit.

Therefore, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight. I dare say that we are courageous and that we would rather be absent from the body and at home with the Lord. And so, we make this our aim: that whether at home or absent, we would be well-pleasing to him. For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what was done in the body; good or evil.

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:18-3:7

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint- heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:17-38

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the presbyters of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. I served the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews. I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house. To both Jews and to Greek, I borewitness to repentance before God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, behold, I go to Jerusalem bound by the Spirit. I do not know what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. But these things do not count, and I do not hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy and [fulfill] the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch overyourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver,or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive!’”

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### June 28 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 4

See November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. Translocaiton of the relics of Sts. Apakir and John.

### June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5

Annual Tune

The Apostles’ Feast

Sts. Theodosia and her Companions

#### The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### Exodus 15:22-16:1a

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. Then the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you.”

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 30:17-30

Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of testimony and the altar. You shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet with water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of testimony, they shall wash with water, lest they die, or when they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord. So they shall wash their hands and feet with water when they go into the tabernacle of testimony, lest they die. It shall be an ordinance forever to them—for him and his genealogy after him.”

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels’ worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:16-26

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 35:1-10

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. Be comforted, you fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:16-44:6

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:7-19

From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.’

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men’s wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.’

“For thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘As I purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked Me to anger,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and I did not relent, so now in these days I have prepared and purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; be of good courage. These are the things you shall do: speak the truth, each man to his neighbor, and judge with peaceful judgment in your gates, and let none of you plan evil in his heart against his neighbor, and do not love a false oath, for all these things I hate,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecherias 14:8-11

Again from the book of Zercharais the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king’s winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:22-38a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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 Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-21

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### June 30 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 6

See December 27 (28) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 1, page 148.

Annual tune. **St. Olympus the Disciple**. St. Theodosia na dher companions, the martyrs.

## July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

### The First Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### 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 which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Second Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### 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 ageamong my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’. Now, regarding the things which I write to you, you can see that I am not lying before God. After that, I visited the districts of Syria and Cilicia. My face was still unknown to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ; they only heard, “The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy!” And they glorified God in me.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 14-25

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,*

*to execute judgment on all,*

*and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness*

*which they have done in an ungodly way,*

*and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:19-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Third Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 6:3-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness, such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith] in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:12-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills.” He then set sail from Ephesus.

After landing at Caesarea, he went to greet the Church, and then traveled down to Antioch. Having spent some time there, he departed and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, strengthening all the disciples.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Fourth Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### 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 Fifth Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 240.

### July 1 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 7 through July 13 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 19

July 1 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 7 see January 27 (28) / Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 2, page 196.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the Archimandrite. **St. Ignatius** the bishop of Rome, the martyr.

July 2 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 8 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. **St. Pishoi**. Sts. Piroou and Athom. St. Balanah the presbyter. St. Pimanon. St. Cyrus (Karas), the brother of Emperor Theodosius.

July 3 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 9 see April 25 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 30, page 228.

Annual tune. **St. Simon Cleophas** the Disciple and martyr. St. Cleadion, the 9th Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 4 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 10 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Theodore, the bishop of Pentapolis, the martyr. St. Theodore, the bishop of Corinth, the martyr. **St. Gabriel VII**, the 9th Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 5 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 11 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. St. John and his cousin, Simon. **St. Isaiah the hermit.**

July 6 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 12 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. Abba Hor the martyr.

July 7 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 13 seeNovember 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. **St. Pisentius** the bishop of Kift. St. Apamon of touch, the martyr.Abba Shenouti the new martyr.

July 8 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 14 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. **St. Macarius of Alexandria**. St. Pocopius of Jerusalem, the martyr. St Peter V, the 83rd Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 9 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 15 see July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3, page 304.

Annual tune. St. Ephriam the Syrian.

July 10 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 16 see December 30 (31) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 4, page 153.

Annual tune. **St. John of the Golden Gospel.** Recovery of the relics of St. George the mew martyr.

July 11 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 17 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Euphemia the martyr.

July 12 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 18 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Annual tune. St James the brother of the Lord, the bishop of Jerusalem.

July 13 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 19 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Bidaba the bishop of Kift the martyr. St. Pantalemon the physician and martyr. St. John X, the 85th Patriarch of Alexandria.

### July 14 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 20

Annual Tune

St. Theodore Strathelatis the Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 2:3-15

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God’s word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? Buteven if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:42-28:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The soldiers’ advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live.” However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### July 15 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 21 through July 26 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 2

July 15 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 21 see March 9 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙϩⲟⲧⲡ 13, page 215.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Sosenius** the eunuch.

July 16 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 22 see April 22 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 27, page 226.

Annual tune. **St. Macarius the martyr.** St. Leontius of Tripoli the martyr.

July 17 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 23 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

Annual tune. **St. Longinus the martyr**. St. Marina the martyr.

July 18 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 24 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. **St. Apanoub** the martyr. St. Simeon I, the 42nd Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Isidore.

July 19 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 25 see November 21 (22) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 25, page 108.

Annual tune. St. Anthony the martyr. St. Hilaria. St. Domatius the Syrian martyr. Abba Isaac the martyr. Sts. Thecla and Mouji the martyrs. St. Apakragon the martyr. St. Palamon the father of the monks. St. Thecla. **The Consecraiton of the Church of St. Mercurius.**

July 20 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 26 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. St. Joseph the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22nd Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 20 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 26 After A.D. 2014 see May 19 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 24, page 249.

Annual tune. **St. Joseph** the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22nd Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 21 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 27 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. St. Apamon the martyr. Consecration of the church of Abba Fam. Sts. Boushra and Emad the martyrs.

July 22 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 28 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Mary Magdaline.

July 23 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 29 see June 29 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 5, page 281.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Translocaiton of the relics of St. Andrew the Apostle. **St. Ourshenoufa the martyr.**

July 24 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 30 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. Sst. Mercurius and Ephraem the martyrs.

July 25 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 1 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune**. St. Apoli**, son of Justus, son of Emperor Nomerius, the martyrs. St. Cyril V, the 112th Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 26 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 2 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Paesa.

### July 27 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 3

Annual Tune

Translocation of the relics of St. Simon the Stylite

St Abramius, the 5th Patriarch of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, I could not speak to you as to spiritual persons, but as to carnal ones - infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat, because you were not yet ready. Indeed, you are not even ready now because you are still carnal. As long as there is jealousy, strife, and factions among you, are you not carnal, walking according to human ways? When one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything: only God makes it grow. Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:1-11

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:13-29

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### July 28 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 4 through July 31 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 7

July 28 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 4 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual Tune. **Ezekieh the King**. Consecration of the church of St. Anthony.

July 29 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 5 see January 21 (22) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 26, page 190.

Annual tune. St. John the soldier and martyr.

July 30 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 6 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual tune. St. Julietta the martyr.

July 31 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 7 see September 23 (24) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 26, page 48.

Annual tune. **Annunciation nativity of the Theotokos to Joachim.** St. Timothy II, the 26th Patriarch of Alexandria.

## August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

### The First Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife – even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 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 which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in.The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Second Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:1-23

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise: “that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”*

Fathers, do not drive your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, with deep loyalty, as to Christ. Do no serve only when eyes are on you in order to please human masters, but as servants of Christ. Accomplish God’s will from the heart; serve with a good attitude, as if you were serving the Lord and not men. Know that for whatever good we do, we shall receive the same in return from the Lord, no matter is we are slave or free.

You masters, do likewise to them: do not resort to threats but recognize that you both have the same Master in heaven, and there is no discrimination with him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Third Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 16:17-20

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:18-3:7

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint- heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:8-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Fourth Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For this reason, we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth: the word of God. And it is at work in you who believe! For you, brethren, became imitators of the Churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews. They killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and they drove us out. Their conduct does not please God, and makes them the enemies of the entire human race as they want to prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. They are still bringing their sins to full measure, but the wrath is finally coming upon them.

Brethren, although we were deprived of your presence for a short time, (yet not in affection), we tried even harder to see you face to face with great eagerness, because we wanted to come to you. Certainly, I, Paul, wanted to come again and again - but Satan prevented us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes? For you are our glory and our joy!

Therefore, when we could not stand it any longer, we thought that it would be good to be alone in Athens and to send Timothy, our brother and God’s minister in the Good News of Christ, so that he might confirm and comfort you in your faith and so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you know that these must come our way. This is certain, and when we were with you, we told you in advance that we must suffer affliction. And this is what happened, as you know. For this reason, when I could not stand it any longer, I sent him so that I might know your faith, fearing that in some way the tempter may have tempted you, so that our labor would have been in vain. But Timothy came back from his visit to you and brought us glad news of your faith and love. He mentioned your abiding good memories of us as well as your longing to see us even as we also long to see you. Through all this, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our distress and affliction through your faith. Now we have revived, since you stand fast in the Lord! What thanksgiving can we give back to God for you, for all the joy you give us to experience before our God. Yes, night and day, I pray intensely so that we may see you again and make perfect what is lacking in your faith. Now, may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. May the Lord grant you to increase and overflow in love one for each other and for everyone, even as we also do for you. And may he establish your hearts, blameless in holiness before our God and Father even to end, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-5:5

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit.” But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’ content as in a day of slaughter.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:19-30

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Fifth Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 240.

### The Fifth Sunday of August or The Sunday of Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:1-18

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:14-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: “Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

*‘It will be in the last days, says God,*

*that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.*

*Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.*

*Your young men will see visions.*

*Your old men will dream dreams.*

*Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days,*

*I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy!*

*I will show wonders in the sky above,*

*and signs on the earth beneath;*

*blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.*

*The sun will be turned into 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.

### August 1 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 8 through August 5 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 12

August 1 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 8 see May 5 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 10, page 243.

Annual tune. **Sts. Lazarus, Salmi, his wife, and their children, the martyrs.** The confession of St. Peter the Apostle.

August 2 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 9 see November 11 (12) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 15, page 96.

Annual tune. St. Ari the presbyter and martyr.

August 3 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 10 see November 23 (24) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 27, page 111.

Annual tune. St. Matra the martyr. St. Pigebus the martyr.

August 4 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 11 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. St. Moses the bishop of Ousim.

August 5 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 12 see September 14 (15) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 17, page 29.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. The regin of **Emeror Constantine.**

### August 6 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 13

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:1-23

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we always pray for you. We have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and about the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope which is prepared for you in heaven. Of this hope you have heard before in the word of the truth of the Good News which has come to you; even as it is [spreading] in the whole world. It has been bearing fruit and growing [everywhere], as it has done in you too since the day you heard and experienced the grace of God in truth. This is what you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf. He has informed us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard this, we do not cease praying and making requests for you, so that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We also pray that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy! May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:12-21

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:44-8:1a

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*‘Heaven is my throne,*

*and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord;*

*‘or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?’*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

Then, they shouted with a loud voice, blocking their ears, and rushed at him with one accord. So they threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called in prayer, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” Kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 7 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 14 through August 9 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 16

August 7 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 14 see November 13 (14) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 17, page 99.

Annual tune. A miracle at Alexandria in the time of Abba Thjeophilus, the 23rd Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 8 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 15 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual utne. St. Marina the ascetic.

August 9 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 16 see April 26 / Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 1, page 231.

Annual tune. **The Assumption of the Theotokos**. St. Matthias IV, the 102 Patriarch of Alexandria.

### August 10 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 17

Annual Tune

St. Jacob the Soldier and Martyr

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 1:1-19

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other “Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own ageamong my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:12-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 11 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 18 through August 17 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 24

August 11 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 18 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople. St. Eudaemon the martyr.

August 12 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 19 see October 24 (25) / Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 27, page 73.

Annual tune. Translocatin of the relics of St. Macarius to his monastery in Scetis (Sheheet).

August 13 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 20 see November 18 (19) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 22, page 103.

Annual tune. The Seven Holy Youths, the martyrs of Ephesus.

August 14 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 21 see January 25 (26) / Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 30, page 193.

Annual Tune. The monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Irene.**

August 15 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 22 see September 5 (6) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. **Michah the Prophet.** St. Hadid the martyr.

August 16 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 23 see April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. **The 30,000 martyrs of Alexandria** during the reign of Marcian. St. Damian the martyr in Antioch.

August 17 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 24 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. **St. Thecla Hemanoute**, the Ethiopian. St. Thomas, bishop of Marsh.

### August 18 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 25

Annual Tune

**St. Besarion the Great, the first disciple of St. Anthony**

St. Macarius III the 114th Patriach of Alexandria.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 3:20-4:9

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 19 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 26

Annual Tune

St. Moses and his sister Sarah, the Martyrs

St. Agabius the soldier, and Thecla his sister, the Martyrs

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:14-27

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by himt o punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselvesto invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, “We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 20 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 27

See April 18 / Ⲡⲁⲣⲙⲟⲩⲧⲉ 23, page 223.

Annual tune. Sts. Benjamin and Eudoxia the martyrs. St. Mary the Armenian, the martyr.

### August 21 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 28

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-10

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:14-23

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:20-34

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father’s house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: ‘Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?’ But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 22 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection

**Sts. Athanasius the bishop, Gerasimus, and Theodotus, the Martyrs**

Arrival of the relics of St. John the Short to Scetis (Sheheet) in 515 A.D.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:25-11:1

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliever (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your own, but the other’s conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else’s conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-42

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be 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.

### August 23 / Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ 30

Annual Tune

Malachi the Prophet

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:8-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:19-2:3

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:30-37

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. [You shall listen to him.]\*’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

\*Laking in EOB, found in TR and Coptic.

### August 24 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 1

Annual Tune

**St. Eutychus, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist**

St. Pishay the Antiochian

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-2:6

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 25 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 2

Annual Tune

St. Titus the Disciple

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:4

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Since we have such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, not as Moses, who put a veil on his face so that the children of Israel would not see the end of what was passing away. In this case, their minds were hardened, because to this very day, at the reading of the old covenant, the same veil remains since only in Christ does it pass away. Even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. With unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are all being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, and this is from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, seeing that we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we do not waver. We have renounced the hidden things of shame: we no longer walk in clever lies and we do not handle the word of God deceitfully. Instead, by the manifestation of the truth, we seek the approval of everyone who has a conscience in the sight of God. Even if our Good News is veiled, it is veiled in those who perish, as the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ who is the image of God should not dawn on them.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:1-11a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:1-7

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In Iconium, both Paul and Barnabas entered into the synagogue of the Jews. They spoke in such a way that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up and poisoned the souls of the Gentiles against the brethren. Therefore, Paul and Barnabas stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord. Moreover, the Lord bore witness to the word of his grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. However, the city was divided. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. Then, a group of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, plotted to attack and stone them. But Paul and Barnabas became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and to the surrounding region. There, they continued to preach the Good News.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 26 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 3

Annual Tune

**Archangel Raphael**

St. Andrianus the Martyr

St. John XIV, the 96th Patriarch of Alexandria

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 2:5-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name tomy brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*

and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery. Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham’s seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:3-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:21-33

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?”

They replied, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say.” Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 27 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 4

Annual Tune

**Abba Poemen the Anchorite**

St. Leparius the bishop of Rome

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 3:9-22

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, we are God’s coworkers! You are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person’s work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone’s work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone’s work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.

Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s sanctuary, God will destroy him because God’s sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. As it is written, “He has taken the wise in their craftiness.” And also, “The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless.” Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### August 28 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 5 through August 31 / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 3

August 28 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 5 see November 24 (25) / Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 28, page 113.

Annual tune. Amos the Prophet. St. James the bishop of Egypt. St. Barsoma the naked. **St. John XV**, the 99th Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 29 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ 6 see February 29 / Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month) 6, page 211.

Annual tune. A Thanksgiving to God.

August 29 (30) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 1 see August 29 (30) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 1, page 16.

Joyful Tune. **The Ecclesiastical New Year**. St. Bartholomew the Apostle. St. Milieus, the 3rd Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 30 (31) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 2 see August 30 (31) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 2, page 19.

Joyful tune. **The martyrdom of St. John the Baptist.** St. Dasya the soldier and martyr.

August 31 (September 1) / Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 3 see June 27 / Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 3, page 278.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the **Council held in Alexandria**. A great earthquake in 1112 A.D.

# Great Lent

## The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

### Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

##### Jonas 1:1-2:1

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me.” But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came about a mighty tempest, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, attempting to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, had gone to sleep, and was snoring.

The captain came to him and said, “Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe so we do not perish.” And each one said to his shipmate, “Come! Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this calamity is upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then they said to him, “Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you did?” For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?” For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, “Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me.”

And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said, “Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about.” So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows.

Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:17-23

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and everincreasing wickedness, now offer your members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:1-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented asan example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings. But the archangel Michael, when he contend with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring against the devil an evil-speaking judgment, but said, “May the Lord rebuke you!” Yet, these people speak evil of things they know nothing about. What they do understand (by natural power, like the creatures without reason), these things will destroyed them. Woe to them! They have followed the path of Cain and they have thrown themselves after the error of Balaam for the sake of money, and they have perished in Korah’s rebellion. These people are like hidden and rocky reefs in your agape meals, when they feast with you. They are shepherds who feed themselves without fear, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved to the age.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:38-47

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

##### Jonas 2:2-11

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said:

“I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God,

And He heard my voice;

Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,

And rivers encompassed me;

All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.

And I said, ‘I have been driven away from Your sight;

Shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me to my soul;

The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,

The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.

When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord.

May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You,

To You, the Lord of Deliverance.”

Then the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast up Jonah onto the dry land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:21-29

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

Now, I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body which is the Church. I have become her servant, according to God’s commission which was I received for you, in order to fulfill the word of God. This is the mystery which was hidden for ages and generations. But now, it has been revealed to his saints. To them, God was pleased to reveal the glorious generosity of this mystery among the Gentiles. This mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is what we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. This is what I also work for, struggling with his energy which is powerfully at work in me.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:3-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:30-34

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We want to hear you again on this matter.”

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

##### Jonas 3:1-4:11

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach there according to the message I previously spoke to you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, just as the Lord spoke. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city to God, a journey of about three days. And Jonah began to enter into the city, going a day’s journey, where he proclaimed and said, “Yet three days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”

And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, “Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water.” So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying, “Who knows if God shall have a change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

But Jonah was deeply grieved and was troubled. So he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? Therefore I saw the need to flee to Tarshish; because I knew You to be compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and willing to change your heart concerning evils. And now, Master, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

And the Lord said to Jonah, “Are you exceedingly grieved?” Then Jonah went out of the city and seated himself opposite it. There he made for himself a tent and sat under its shade, until he might observe what would happen to the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah to be a shade over his head, to shield him from his discomforts. Jonah rejoiced with great joy because of the gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. And when the sun rose, God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” Then God said to Jonah, “Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?” And he said, “I am exceedingly grieved, even unto death.” And the Lord said, “You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know either their right hand or their left—and many livestock?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:1-22

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called “uncircumcision” by what is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and member’s of God’s household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:12-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:12:20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Feast of Nineveh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:17-22

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:22-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Indeed, Moses indeed said to the fathers, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brethren. You shall listen to him in all that he tells you. And it shall be that every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly cut off from among the people.’ In fact, all the prophets that have spoken, from Samuel to those who followed after [him], have also announced these days. You are the children of the prophets, and [children] of the covenant which God made with our fathers when he said to Abraham, ‘In your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up [to life] his servant Jesus, sent him to you first, in order to bless you as everyone of you turns away from his wicked ways.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Saturday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers: what association is there between righteousness and wickedness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? What sharing is there between a believer and an unbeliever? What agreement can there be between God’s sanctuary and idols? For you are a sanctuary of the living God. Even as God said, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Therefore:

*‘Come out from among them, and be separate,’ says the Lord.*

*‘Touch no unclean thing.*

*I will receive you.c*

*I will be a Father to you.*

*You will be to me sons and daughters,’*

says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, so that we may bring [our] holiness to completion in the fear of God. Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter. And so, although I wrote to you, it was neither for the sake of the offender nor for the one offended, but so that your devotion to us might be revealed in the sight of God. Therefore, we have been comforted. In our comfort, we rejoiced all the more on account of Titus’s joy, because you had refreshed his spirit. I had boasted to him about you, and I was not disappointed! And just as we spoke all things to you in truth, likewise boasting to Titus [about you] was found to be the truth. His deep affection for you is even stronger as he remembers your obedience, how with fear and trembling you received him. I rejoice that concerning you, I can be confident in everything.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:1-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After departing from them, we set sail and made a straight course to Cos. The next day, [we sailed] to Rhodes and from there to Patara. Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and continued our journey. When we came in sight of Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre where the ship was to unload her cargo. Since we found some disciples there, we stayed for seven days. Through the Spirit, these disciples told Paul that he should not go up to Jerusalem. When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 11:16-28

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham’s seed? So am I! Are they Christ’s servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:1-11

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:15-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After these days, we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing an early disciple [named] Mnason of Cyprus, with whom we would be staying.

When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. The next day, Paul went with us to visit James, and all the presbyters were present. After greeting them, Paul reported in detail what God had worked among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard it, they glorified God. They told him, “You see, brother, that there are many thousands among the Jews who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to abandon Moses and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or to preserve the customs. What then? The Church must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come! Therefore, do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them, join in their purification rites, and pay for their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they shouldkeep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled

things, and from sexual immorality.”

So Paul took the men, and the next day, he purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 2:23-3:5

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now in the course of time, it happened that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of their labors and cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the labors. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then God looked upon the children of Israel and was made known to them.

Now Moses was tending the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. Then he led them to the back of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed.”

When therefore the Lord saw him turn aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!” Then he said, “Here I am.” So He said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:2-18

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: “I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me.” Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom. Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: “What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” says the Lord. “I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of lambs. I do not desire the blood of bulls and he-goats. When you come to appear before Me, who required these things from your hands to tread My court? Although you should bring fine wheat flour, it is vain. Incense is an abomination to Me. I cannot endure your new moons, and Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, and fasting and holy day. Your new moons and feasts My soul hates. You have become a dissatisfaction to Me; I will not forgive your sins. When you stretch forth your hands to Me, I will turn My eyes from you. Although you make many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:26-2:7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions, for their women changed the natural function into what is against nature and the men likewise. They abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men, and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. Even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting. They have become filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are also full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; Knowing the ordinance of God, (that those who practice such things are worthy of death), they not only do these [very] things but also approve of those who practice them.

Therefore, you are without excuse, if you are judging! For in passing judgment on another, you condemn yourself, because you pass judgment and yet practice the same things. We know that the judgment of God is according to truth and against those who practice such things. Do you think that you will escape the judgment of God if you judge those who practice such things and yet does the same? Or do you despise the richesof God’s goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, “Sit here in a good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there,” or “Sit by my footstool!” Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:19-28

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

They passed through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. After preaching the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there, they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now fulfilled. When they arrived, they gathered the Church and reported all that God had accomplished with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 1:19-2:3a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.” For her captives shall be saved with judgment and with mercy. The lawless and sinners shall be destroyed together. Those who forsake the Lord shall come to an end. For they shall be ashamed of the idols they desired and the gardens they longed for. For they shall be as a terebinth tree that has lost its leaves; like a garden with no water. Their strength shall be as broken fiber and their works as sparks of fire. The lawless and the sinners will burn together, and no one shall quench them.

The word that came from the Lord to Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. Many Gentiles shall travel and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:7-13

From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.’

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men’s wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 9:14-29

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

What then shall we say? That there is injustice with God? May it never be! For he said to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” And so, it is not about someone willing or running, but it depends on God who has mercy. Thus, the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose, I caused you to be raised up, so that I might show in you my power, and that my Name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” And so, God has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. You will then ask me, “Why does God still find fault? Who can resist his will?”

But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath and also to make his power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory? That is us, whom he also called, not from the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? As he says also in Hosea:

*I will call them ‘my people,’ which were not my people;*

*and her ‘beloved,’ who was not beloved.*

*It will be that in the place where it was said to them,*

*You are not my people,’*

*There they will be called ‘children of the living God.’*

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

*If the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea,*

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

*For he will finish the workc 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 Hostse had left us a seed,*

*We would have become like Sodom,*

*And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:3-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-42

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!”

They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they had them flogged and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus; then, they released them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of his Name.

Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 2:3-11

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Many Gentiles shall travel and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it.” For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the Gentiles and rebuke many people. They shall beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O now, house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. For He forsook His people, the house of Israel, for as from the beginning, their land is filled with divinations—like the land of foreigners—and many children of foreigners were born to them. Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures. Their land is also filled with horses; there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also filled with the abominations of their works, and they worship the works of their hands, which their fingers made. A man bows down and each man humbles himself, but I will not forgive them. Enter now into the rocks and hide in the earth from the face of the Lord, for fear and the glory of His might when He rises to smite the earth. For the eyes of the Lord are lofty, and man is humble. The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:12-27

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now says the Lord your God, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate. He is longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?”

Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom go out from his bedchamber and the bride out of her bridal chamber. Between the porch and the altar, the priests of the altar, ministering to the Lord, will each be weeping and will say, “O Lord, spare Your people; do not give Your inheritance to reproach, that the Gentiles should rule over them, lest they should say among the Gentiles, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

God’s Blessing upon His People

But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. And the Lord answered His people and said, “Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, and I will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up, because he has done powerful works.”

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other but Me. And at no time will My people be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:19-15:7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, “The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:4b-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansingfrom their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:9-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, on the next day, as they were on their way and approached the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a great sheet let down on the earth by four corners and descending to him. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter, kill and eat!”

But Peter said, “Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean!”

Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, “What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean.” This happened three times, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. As Peter was very perplexed regarding the meaning of the vision, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius found where Simon’s house was and stood at the gate. They called and asked whether Simon, who was called Peter, was lodging there. While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise and go downstairs! Accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 2:11b-19

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every mountain and lofty hill, and upon every high tower and fortified wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. But they shall hide all the things made by hands. They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord’s presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:18-23

From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’ Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Yet many people will have come and those inhabiting many cities; and the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, “Let us go to beseech the Lord and to seek out the face of the Lord Almighty; and I will go also.” And many peoples and many nations will come to seek out the presence of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem and to obtain the favor of the presence of the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord Almighty, ‘In those days, if ten men from all the tongues of the nations stop you, even if they grab hold of the hem of a Jewish man, they will be saying, “We will go with you, for we heard God is with you.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I beg you therefore, be imitators of me. For this reason, I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every Church. Now, some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills! Then I will find out not so much what these arrogant people say, but what power they have. For the Kingdom of God is not in speech, but in power. What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and a kind as does not even occur among the Gentiles, [namely] that someone has his father’s wife! And you are arrogant! Should you not rather have mourned, so that whoever has done this would have been removed from among you? For I most certainly, as being absent in body but present in spirit, have already, as though I were present, judged the man who has done this thing! In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are to hand over such a person to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be delivered in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your self-satisfaction is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral\*.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

\*Other translations have “fornicators” for “pornos”

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:8-2:11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:3-13

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened this him, from the least to the greatest. They said, “Thisman is the power of God, of the great kind!” People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 6:3-7:26

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you—‘to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ”

These are the ordinances and the judgments the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the desert, when they came from the land of Egypt: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power. So these words I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and it shall be immovable before your eyes; and you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

“So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities you did not build, and houses full of all good things you did not fill, and hewn-out wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—and when you have eaten and are full— then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brings you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall cling to Him and take oaths in His name. You shall not go after different gods, the gods of the nations around you, because the Lord your God is a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God, as you tempted Him in the Temptation. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and the ordinances He commanded you. So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and you may go in and inherit the good land the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase out all your enemies from before your face, as He said.

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are the testimonies, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded you?’ you shall say to your son, ‘We were servants of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; and the Lord set great and evil signs affecting Egypt, Pharaoh, and his house before us. Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in to give us this land He swore to give our fathers. So the Lord commanded us to do all these ordinances, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, and we may live as today. Then we shall have mercy, if we are careful to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as the Lord commanded us.’

“Now if the Lord your God brings you into the land you go to inherit, and casts out great nations before your face, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, you shall strike and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show them mercy. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, nor take his daughter for your son. For she will turn your son away from Me, and he will serve other gods; so the Lord will be very angry with you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their pillars, and cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire.

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God chose you to be a people for Himself, special above all the nations on the face of the earth. The Lord did not prefer nor choose you because you were more in number than all the nations, for you are the least of all the nations; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath He swore to your fathers, the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know, the Lord your God, this God, is a faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with those who hate Him; He will repay them to their face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments, the ordinances, and these judgments I command you today to do them.

“Then it shall come to pass, when you listen to all these ordinances and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy He swore to your fathers; and He will love you and bless and multiply you; He will also bless the offspring of your womb, and the fruit of your land: your grain, wine, and olive oil, and the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep, in the land the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed more than all the nations; there shall not be a childless male or a barren female among you or your cattle. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and He will not put on you the evil diseases you saw and knew in Egypt, but will put them on all who hate you. Also you shall eat all the spoils of the nations the Lord your God gives you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

“If you should say in your mind, ‘This nation is greater than I; how will I be able to destroy them?’ you shall not be afraid of them, but shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all the Egyptians: the great trials your eyes saw, those great signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord our God do to all the nations of whose face you are afraid. Moreover the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. You shall not be terrified of their face; for the Lord your God is among you, a great and powerful God; and the Lord your God will consume those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the land become a desert and the wild animals increase against you. But the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands and destroy them with a great destruction, until they are destroyed. So He will deliver their kings into your hands, and will destroy their name from that place; no one shall be able to stand against your presence until you destroy them. You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not desire the silver or gold of theirs, nor take it for yourselves, lest you stumble because of it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 3:1-14a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Judah and from Jerusalem the strong man and the strong woman; the strength of bread and the strength of water; the mighty man and the man of war; the judge, the prophet, the diviner, and the elder; the captain of fifty, the wonderful counselor, the skillful artisan, and the prudent disciple. “I will give children to be their princes, and mockers shall rule over them. The people will collapse, every one on another and every one on his neighbor. The child will be arrogant toward the elder and vulgar toward the honorable.” When a man takes hold of his brother or his father’s servant, saying, “You have clothing; you be our ruler and let my food be under your roof.” In that day, he will protest, saying, “I will not be your ruler, for in my house there is neither food nor clothing. I will not be the ruler of this people.” For Jerusalem is ruined and Judah is fallen, because their tongues are lawless and they are disobedient to the Lord. Now their glory is humbled. The shame on their face witnesses against them. They declare and exhibit their sin as Sodom. Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, saying, “Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us.” They shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. “O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet.” The Lord stands up to plead and stands to judge His people. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:6-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let you love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God’s wrath follow its course. As it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.” Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John (all)

The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:42-3:9

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:1-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your rational offering of divine service. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. By the grace that was given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you should! Instead, think [of yourselves] reasonably, as God has apportioned to everyone a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, likewise we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let you love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God’s wrath follow its course. As it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.” Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:27-39

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the seven days were almost completed, Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the entire crowd and laid hands on him, shouting, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the {chosen} people, the law, and this place. Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place!” [They said this] because they had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with Paul in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

The entire city was in turmoil and the people came running. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the doors were shut. As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the [Roman] troops that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Immediately, he took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to the crowd. When they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, the Jews stopped beating Paul. Then, the commanding officer came near and arrested him. He gave orders that Paul should be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what he had done. From the crowd, some shouted one thing and some another. Since the commander could not find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded that Paul be taken into the barracks.

When Paul reached the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd. The whole mob followed them and shouted, “Away with him!” As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, “May I speak to you?”

The man said, “Do you know Greek? Then, are you not the Egyptian who recently stirred people up to rebellion and led the four thousand Assassins into the wilderness?”

But Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The First Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 13:1-14

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Let every human being be in subjection to the higher authorities because there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. Therefore, whoever opposes the authority opposes the ordinance of God. Those who oppose will receive judgment upon themselves. Certainly, rulers are not a terror to the good deed, but to the evil [deed]! Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will have praise [from the authority], because it is for you a minister of God for good. But if you do what is evil, then be afraid, because it does not bear the sword in vain; it is a servant of God, an avenger of wrath to anyone who does evil. Therefore, you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. For this reason, you also pay taxes, because the authorities are ministers of God’s service, always taking care of this purpose. And so, give to everyone as you owe: taxes to whom taxes are due; revenues to whom revenues are due; respect to whom respect is duet; honor to whom honor is due!

Do not owe anything to anyone, except to love one another; for whoever loves the other has fulfilled the law.

Indeed, these commandments (“You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commandments there are,) are all summed up in this very saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does not harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

Do this, being aware of the time: it is already time for you to awaken from sleep, for salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed! The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently, as in the day; not in parties and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and lustful acts, and not in strife or jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think how to satisfy the flesh and its lusts.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

When temptations come, let no one say, “I am tempted by God,” because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:40-22:16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the commander had given him permission, Paul, stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying:

“Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense which I now make to you.”

When the people heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet.

Paul continued, “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are this day. I persecuted this Way to death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as the high priest and the entire council of the presbyters can testify. I even received letters for their brethren in Damascus and traveled there to bring these people in chains to Jerusalem to be punished. It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’ Since I could not see because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand of those who were with me and arrived in Damascus. Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, came to me. Standing by me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment, I was able to see him! He said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. For you will be a witness for him to all men, testifying to what you have seen and heard. Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 3:6-14

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses then hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow. So I came down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt?” Then God said to Moses, “I will be with you, and this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” So Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I tell them?”

Then God said to Moses, “I AM the Existing One.” He also said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Existing One sent me to you.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 4:2-5:7a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion, and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from their midst by the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning. He shall come and there shall be with regard to Mt. Zion and everything round about, a cloud to overshadow it by day, and as it were smoke and light of fire burning at night, and it shall be covered altogether with glory. It shall be for shade from the heat, for a place of shelter, and for a hiding-place from inclement weather and rain.

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.” For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:18-25

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of those suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

Thinking themselves to be wise, they became fools! They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, of birds, of four-footed animals, and creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, so that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves. Having exchanged the truth of God for a lie, they worshiped and offered divine service to the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:36-5:11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Joses, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles (which means ‘Son of Encouragement’) was a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race. He sold a field that he owned and brought the money, laying it at the apostles’ feet.

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?”

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Job 19:1-27

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“How long will you weary my soul

And take me down with words?

Only know how the Lord has dealt with me thus.

You speak against me, and while shaming me,

You press hard on me.

Yes indeed, I have truly erred; my error lodges with me.

When I speak words which I should not have spoken,

My words go astray and are unseasonable.

Alas! You exalt yourselves against me

And attack me with disgrace.

Know therefore that the Lord has troubled me

And raised His stronghold against me.

Behold, I laugh at disgrace and I will not speak.

Nor will I cry out, for judgment is nowhere to be found.

I am walled in round about and cannot cross over,

For He has set darkness before my face.

He stripped me of my glory

And took the crown from my head.

He has torn me apart on every side, and I am gone.

He has uprooted my hope like a tree.

He handled me vehemently in wrath

And has counted me like an enemy.

His raiders came against me with one accord.

They encircled my paths and lay in wait.

“My brothers stood far from me

And recognized strangers rather than me.

So my friends became unmerciful.

My relatives acted as though they did not know me,

And my close friends have forgotten me.

As for my neighbors and the maidservants of my house,

I was a stranger before them.

I called my servant, but he gave no answer,

Though I begged him with my mouth.

I also entreated my wife,

And summoned the children of my concubines and flattered them.

But they rejected me forever.

When I arise, they speak against me.

Those who know me detest me,

And those whom I truly love turned against me.

The muscles of my body have decayed under my skin,

And my bones are held in my teeth.

“Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O friends,

For the hand of the Lord has touched me.

Why do you persecute me as the Lord does,

And are not satisfied because of my flesh?

“For who may commit my words to writing,

To put them in a book forever,

With an iron pen and lead,

Or to engrave them in rocks?

For I know He is everlasting,

He who is about to set me free on the earth

And to raise up my skin that endures these things;

For these have been accomplished for me by the Lord;

Which I myself am conscious of,

And my eyes have beheld, and not those of another.

All has been accomplished for me in my bosom.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:7-16

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them. 10r where ten yoke of oxen shall work, the land shall yield one jar, and whoever sows six homers shall receive three measures. Woe to those who rise early in the morning to follow intoxicating drink; to those who continue until night, for wine shall inflame them. For they drink wine with the harp, the strings, the tambourine and flute, but they do not look at the deeds of the Lord, nor consider the works of His hands!

Therefore my people became captives, because they did not know the Lord; and a multitude died through hunger and thirst for water. Hades enlarged itself and opened its mouth continually. The glorious, the great, the wealthy, and the troublesome shall descend into it. A man shall be humiliated, and a man shall be dishonored; and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the Holy God shall be glorified in righteousness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Let everyone give according to what he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that by having what is needed in everything, you may overflow in every good work. As it is written:

*He has scattered abroad, he has given to the poor.*

*His righteousness remains forever.*

Now, may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food also supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. Thus, may you be enriched in everything, so that you may be generous in all things, and through us, this brings thanksgiving to God. This ministry of giving which you perform does not only make up for what the saints are lacking; it also overflow into thanksgiving to God. Seeing that you prove yourselves by this service, the saints glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the Good News of Christ, and also for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all. As for them, with supplication on your behalf, they are devoted to you by reason of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-22

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name.” They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 2:11-20

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren of the sons of Israel. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbor?” He replied, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” So Moses was alarmed and said, “Surely this thing is known.” Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, “How is it you came so soon today?” They replied, “An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us and watered our sheep.” So he said to his daughters, “And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:17-25

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Those plundered shall be fed as bulls, and lambs shall eat on the waste places of those taken away.

Woe to those who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope and lawlessness as with the strap of a cow’s yoke, who say, “Let Him speedily hasten what He will do that we may see it, and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know it!” Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Malachi 1:6-3:6\*

From the book of Malachi the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?” says the Lord Almighty. “You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, ‘In what way have we disparaged Your name?’ You offer defiled bread on My altar, but you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept these from you?” says the Lord Almighty. “For this reason, even among you the doors will be shut, and you will not burn an offering on My altar. I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord Almighty, “nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My name has been glorified among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering, for My name shall be great among the Gentiles,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you profane it in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled; and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And you said, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And I have blown these away,” says the Lord Almighty. “And you bring prey, the lame, and the sick, and when you bring an offering, should I accept these from your hands?” says the Lord Almighty. “But cursed be the man who is able, who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—for I am a great King,” says the Lord Almighty, “and My name is glorious among the nations.

“And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; indeed I will curse it, and I will scatter your blessing, and you will have it no more because you do not take this to heart. Behold, I am turning my back on you, and I will smear dung on your faces, the dung of your feasts, and I will carry you away at the same time. Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant is with the sons of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty.

“My covenant of life and peace was with him, and I gave this to him that he might reverently fear Me, that he might be established before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from lawlessness. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.

“But you have departed from the way; you weakened many in the law and corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty. “Therefore I also made you contemptible and disregarded before all nations, because you have not guarded My ways but have shown partiality in the law.”

Did not one God create you? Do you not all have one father? Why, then, does each of you forsake his brother to profane the covenant of your fathers? Judah was forsaken, and an abomination has occurred in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah profaned the holy things of the Lord, which He loved, and sought out foreign gods. The Lord will destroy the man who does these things until he is humiliated from the tents of Jacob and from among those who offer sacrifice to the Lord Almighty.

And you do these things which I hate. You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and moaning because of troubles, yet still thinking it is worthy to look upon your sacrifice or take it as acceptable from your hands. And you say, “Why?” Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you have forsaken; yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. But did He not make another, having a remnant of His Spirit? Yet you ask, “What else does God seek but offspring?” But take heed to your spirit, and do not forsake the wife of your youth. “But if you hate her and send her away,” says the Lord God of Israel, “ungodliness will obscure your thinking,” says the Lord Almighty. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not forsake her.” You weary the Lord with your words, yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord Almighty. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner’s fire and as soap in one’s wash. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold. He will purify the sons of Levi and pour them out as purified gold and silver, and they will bring an offering to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

“And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, those who exploit wage-earners, those who oppress widows and afflict orphans, those who pervert the justice due foreigners, and those who do not fear Me,” says the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob, have not abstained [from the sins of your fathers.]

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\* Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:1-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), “Let us do evil, that good may come?” Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

*There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John 8-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:3-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?” She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 5:15-22

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember, you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God ordered you to guard the Sabbath day and to sanctify it.

‘Honor your father and mother in the manner the Lord your God commanded you, that it may be well with you, and you may be a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

‘You shall not murder.

‘You shall not commit adultery.

‘You shall not steal.

‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not covet your neighbor’s house, neither his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or his cattle, or anything belonging to your neighbor.’

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 6:1-12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, “Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!” Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth, and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed.” I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?” Then I said, “Behold, here am I, send me.” So He said, “Go, and tell this people, ‘You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.’ For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them.” Then I said, “Lord, how long?” So He answered, “Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 2:1-6:26\*

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

After this, Joshua the son of Nun sent out two young men from Acacia Grove to spy out the land, saying, “Go and see the land and Jericho.” So the two young men went and entered Jericho; and they went into the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. This was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come to spy on the land.” So the king of Jericho sent and spoke to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who came into your house last night; for they are here to spy on the land.”

But the woman took the men and hid them, and she spoke to them, saying, “The men came to me; but as the gate was being shut in the darkness, the men went out. I do not know where they went. Pursue them, if indeed you may overtake them.” But she led them to the roof and hid them in the stalk of flax she had piled together on the roof.

So the men searched for them along the road to the Jordan, to the fords, and the gate was closed. Then it came to pass, when the men who pursued them went after them and before the spies went to sleep, that she went to them on the roof and said, “I know that the Lord gave you the land, for fear of you has fallen upon us. For we heard that the Lord God dried up the Red Sea before you when you came out of the land of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and to Og, whom you utterly destroyed. So when we heard it, we were amazed in our heart, and there was no longer any spirit in any of us because of your presence, for your God is in heaven above and on earth below. Now therefore, swear to me by the Lord God that as I showed you mercy, you shall also be merciful to me in my father’s house, and capture alive all my house: my father and mother, and my brothers, and everything they have, and deliver my soul from death.”

Then the men said to her, “Our life for your life, even to death.” She then said, “When the Lord shall deliver the city to you, deal with me in mercy and truth.” After this, she let them down through the window and said to them, “Go away to the hill country, lest the pursuers happen to find you. Hide there for three days until your pursuers return from their search for you. Afterwards, you shall depart and go your way.”

So the men said to her, “We will be without fault regarding this oath of yours. For behold, we will come into a part of the city, and you will set a sign; you shall hang this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down. Then you shall gather yourself and your father and mother and your brothers into your father’s house. Whoever shall go outside the door of your house, his guilt shall be upon him, and we will be free of this oath of yours. But we will be responsible for whoever is with you in your house. But if anyone injures us or reveals these words of ours, we shall be free from this oath of yours.” Then she said to them, “Let it be so according to your word.” So she sent them away.

They departed and went to the hill country and remained there for three days; and the pursuers searched all the roads, but did not find them. So the two young men returned and came down from the mountain. They crossed over to Joshua the son of Nun and told him everything that happened to them. They said to Joshua, “The Lord will deliver all the land into our hand, for everyone who inhabits that land cowers in fear because of us.”

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and departed from Acacia Grove; and he came to the Jordan and lodged there before crossing over. After three days, it came to pass that the scribes went through the camp and commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and Levites who carry it, then you shall depart from your places; and you shall go after it; but there shall be a distance between you and it. You shall stand as much as two thousand cubits from it, and do not come near it, that you may understand the way you are to go; for you have not gone this way before.” Joshua then said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua also said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and go before the people.” So the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and went before the people.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.”

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight.’ ” So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, “Draw near in front of me in the Lord’s presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ then you will declare to your son, saying, ‘The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over’; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever.”

So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan until Joshua had completed all the Lord commanded him to proclaim to the people; and the people hastened and crossed over.

Then it came to pass, when all the people finished crossing over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord crossed over, and the stones before them. The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh also crossed over, well-armed before the sons of Israel, as Moses commanded them. Forty thousand men armed for war crossed before the Lord for battle against the city of Jericho. On that day, the Lord magnified Joshua before all the nation of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses.

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua saying, “Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord to come up from the Jordan.” So Joshua commanded the priests, saying, “Go out from the Jordan.” Then it came to pass, when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stepped out from the Jordan and set their feet on land, the water of the Jordan returned to its place, and went as before over all its banks.

Now the people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel camped at Gilgal in the region eastward from Jericho. Then Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones he took from the Jordan, saying, “When your children ask you, ‘What are these stones?’ then tell your children that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we crossed over; that all the nations of the land might know that the power of the Lord is mighty; and that you might worship the Lord your God in every age.”

Then it came to pass, when the kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan and the kings of the Phoenicians near the sea heard that the Lord God had dried up the Jordan River before the children of Israel when they crossed over, their minds fainted, they were panic-stricken, and there was no more sense left in them because of the presence of the children of Israel.

At about this time, the Lord said to Joshua, “Make stone knives for yourself from a sharp rock, and sit down and circumcise the sons of Israel.” So Joshua made sharp stone knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at the place called the Hill of Foreskins. In this manner, Joshua completely purified the sons of Israel, as many as were born at any time along the way and as many as were uncircumcised after they came out of Egypt. Joshua circumcised all these. For Israel lived in the Madbarite desert for forty-two years; therefore, most of their fighting men who came out of Egypt and who disobeyed the commandments of God were uncircumcised. Concerning these, He also determined that they would not see the land which the Lord swore to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. But in their place, He raised up their sons, whom Joshua circumcised because they were born during the journey and thus were uncircumcised. So when they were circumcised, they rested there and stayed in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, “Today I have removed the disgrace of Egypt from you.” Thus he called the name of that place Gilgal.

Then the children of Israel kept Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. They ate of the unleavened and new wheat of the land. On this day, the manna ceased, after they ate from the wheat of the land. Thus, the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruits in the land of the Phoenicians in that year.

Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, “Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?” He said to him, “I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord.” Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth and said to him, “O Master, what do you command your servant?” The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, “Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy.”

Jericho was enclosed and fortified, and no one went out of or into it. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Behold, I will deliver Jericho into your hand, its king and its army of soldiers who are mighty. But place your soldiers around it, and it shall come to pass that when you sound with the trumpet, let all the people shout together, and when they shout, the walls of the city shall fall by themselves; and all the people will enter, each rushing throughout the entire area of the city.”

So Joshua the son of Nun went to the priests and he spoke to them, saying, “Command the people to go around and surround the city, and let the men of war pass on armed before the Lord. Let seven priests holding seven holy trumpets likewise pass by before the Lord, and let them signal vigorously; and let the ark of the covenant of the Lord follow after them. Let the men of war go in front; and let the priests be the rear guard behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord as they proceed, and sound the trumpets.”

Now Joshua gave a command to the people, saying, “Do not shout, nor let anyone hear your voice, until the day I myself tell you to shout, and then shout.” So when the ark of the covenant of God went around the city, it immediately returned into the camp and lodged there. Then on the second day, Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Seven priests carried seven trumpets and went on before the Lord. The armed men followed after with the rest of the multitude behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then the priests sounded the trumpets, and all the rest of the multitude encircled the city from close by, then again went back to the camp. They did this for six days.

On the seventh day, they rose early in the morning and went around the city six times. Then it came to pass that as they marched around the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Shout, for indeed the Lord has handed over the city to you. For the city shall be accursed by the Lord, it and whatever is in it. However, preserve Rahab the harlot and whatever is in her house. But be very careful to keep yourself from what is accursed, lest you yourself consider to take from it what is accursed, and then you shall make the camp of the children of Israel a curse and destroy us. But all the silver, the gold, the bronze or the iron shall be holy to the Lord and brought in to the treasury of the Lord.” So the priests sounded the trumpets, and when the people heard the sound of the trumpets, all the people shouted together with a great and mighty shout. Then the entire wall fell round about, and all the people went into the city.

Joshua put the city under a curse with the edge of the sword, and whatever was in it: from man to woman, from young man to old man, and from calf to donkey. Then Joshua said to the two young men who acted as spies, “Go into the house of the woman, and bring her out from there, and whatever she has.” So the two young men who had spied out the city went into the house of the woman and brought out Rahab the harlot, her father and mother, and her brothers and kindred, and all she possessed. They set her outside the camp of Israel, and the city, with everyone in it, was set on fire; but the silver, the gold, the bronze, and the iron they brought into the treasury of the Lord.

Thus Joshua kept alive Rahab the harlot and all the house of her father, and caused her to dwell in Israel to this very day, because she hid the spies Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Joshua adjured Israel on that day before the Lord, saying, “Cursed be the man who rebuilds that city. He shall lay its foundation in his firstborn son, and he shall set up its gates with his youngest son.” Thus did Hiel from Bethel. He laid its foundation in Abiram, his firstborn son, and he set up its gates with Segub, his youngest surviving son.

So the Lord was with Joshua, and his name was known throughout all the land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 16:17-27 or Romans 16:17-24, 14:24-26\*

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Timothy, my fellow-worker, greets you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives. I, Tertius, who write the letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, my host and host of the whole Church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, as does Quartus, the brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

\*The order of these verses varies. TR places them as they are seen here. PT and EOB place the last paragraph as the end of chapter 14.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:12-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, “You are crazy!” When she insisted that it was so, they said, “It is his angel!” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, “Tell these things to James, and to the brethren.” Then he departed, and went to another place.

As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

At that time, Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. With one accord, they came to him, and, having befriended Blastus (the king’s personal aide), they asked for peace because their country depended on the king’s country for food. On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. The people shouted, “The voice of a god, not of a man!” Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 8:1-9:4

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper. Thus you shall eat and be full and bless the Lord your God for the good land He gave you.

“Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days— then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’ Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

“Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?’ Therefore understand today, the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God consumes these nations before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land’; but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Samuel 17:16-54, 18:6-9 or 1 Kings 17:1-18:4

From the book of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Philistines brought their armies together for battle, and they gathered at Sochoh of Judah. They encamped between Sochoh and Azekah in Ephes Dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel gathered, and they were encamped in the valley. They were to set up in battle formation opposite the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

And a mighty man went out from the battle line of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath. His height was four cubits and a span. He had a helmet on his head, and he wore a breastplate of chain mail; and the weight of his breastplate was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. And he had armor made of bronze on his legs and a bronze shield between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like the beam of a loom, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels. A shield-bearer went before him. Then he stood and shouted out to the armies of Israel and said to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and you Hebrews of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I am able to kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” And the Philistine said, “Look! This very day I challenge the ranks of the armies of Israel. Give me a man that the two of us can fight one on one.” When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

But David said to Saul, “Let not the heart of my lord fall in regards to him. Your servant will go and fight with this foreigner.” And Saul said to David, “No, you are not able to go to the Philistine to fight him, since you are a young man, and he is a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to tend the flock for his father, and when a lion or a bear came and took a sheep out of the flock, I followed it and struck it, and delivered the sheep from its mouth. And as it arose against me, I caught it by its throat and struck and killed it. Your servant smote both the lion and the bear; and the uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them to me. Will I not go and kill him today, and remove the reproach of Israel? For who is this uncircumcised one who challenged the ranks of the armies of Israel? The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!”

So Saul clothed David with armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head, and he girded David with his sword over his armor. David made a trial walking with them a time or two. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to go with these, for I have not tested them.” So they removed them. Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook. He put them in a shepherd’s bag to store away, and in his hand was his sling. He then approached the Philistine.

And when Goliath saw David, he disdained him; for he was a young boy, ruddy with a good countenance. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I as a dog, that you come against me with a staff and stones?” Then David said, “No, worse than a dog!” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven and the beasts of the field!”

24Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord Sabaoth, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you reproached today. 25Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you. And this day I will give your carcass and the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands.”

And the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out one stone. He slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone penetrated through his helmet and into his forehead. He fell to the ground on his face. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore, David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword, and killed him and cut off his head. And the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled.

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon. Then the men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. He put his armor in his tent.

From all the cities of Israel, women came out dancing with tambourines, with joy, and with cymbals to greet David. And the women began a song and sang, “Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

These words seemed evil in the eyes of Saul, and he said to David, “They ascribed to you ten thousands, and to me they ascribed only thousands.” So from that day forward, Saul eyed David with suspicion,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 7:1-14

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, there came up Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it; but they could not conquer it. Then it was reported to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces made an agreement with Ephraim.” So his soul and the soul of his people was confounded, as a tree of the woods is shaken by the wind. Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, and say to him, ‘Guard yourself and be silent; do not fear, neither let your soul be disheartened because of these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for when My fierce anger is over, again I shall heal. The son of Syria and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, “Let us go up against Judah and talk with them, and let us turn them to our side, and let us make the son of Tabel king of it.” Thus says the Lord of hosts: “This counsel shall not continue, nor shall it come to pass. But the head of Syria is Damascus; nevertheless, in sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim will cease being a people. Also the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son, and if you do not believe this, neither will you understand it.” ’ ”

Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 11:1-20

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“He who speaks much should also listen in turn,

Or does the fluent speaker think himself to be righteous?

Blessed is the short-lived offspring of a woman.

Do not be wordy in your speech,

For there is no one to reply to you.

Do not say, ‘I am pure in my works

And blameless before Him.’

But how does the Lord speak to you?

He will open His lips against you.

Then He will declare to you the power of wisdom,

For it shall be double in your case.

At that time you will know a worthy recompense

Has come to you from the Lord because of your sins.

Will you find the traces of the Lord?

Have you reached the outer extremities

Of what the Almighty has made?

Heaven is high, and what will you do?

And what do you know,

For there are even deeper things in Hades?

Do you know those dimensions

That are longer than the earth and broader than the sea?

If He should overthrow everything,

Who then will say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

For He knows the works of the lawless;

And when He sees wrongs, He shall not overlook them.

But man vainly swims in words,

And a mortal born of a woman is equal to a donkey in the desert.

If you have made your heart pure

And stretch out your hands toward Him,

If something lawless is done by your hands,

Put it far away from you;

And do not let any wrongdoing lodge in your dwelling.

For in this way, your face will shine forth like pure water,

For you will cleanse away the filth. You will not fear.

Then you will forget this hardship

Like a wave that has passed away;

And you will not be terrified.

Your prayer will be like the morning star.

At midday, life will rise to you.

You will be confident because you have hope;

And peace shall bring light to you out of anxiety and care.

You will also be at rest,

And there will be no one to fight against you.

Many will change their mind about you and supplicate you.

But salvation will forsake them, for their hope will be lost,

And the eyes of the ungodly will melt away.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:28-13:16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Keep on loving each other as brethren. Do not forget to be hospitable to strangers, for in doing so, some have welcomed angels without knowing it! Remember those who are in chains, as chained with them, and also those who are ill-treated, as if you too were suffering in the body. Marriage must be held in honor among all and the [marriage] bed [kept] undefiled: but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Be free from the love of money and be satisfied with what you have. As God has said, “I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.” And so, we say with good courage:

*The Lord is my helper, I will not fear.*

*What can man do to me?*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:7-16

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:22-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

Accordingly, the men were sent off and arrived in Antioch where they gathered the community and delivered the letter. The people read it and rejoiced over the encouragement.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:1-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not to enter into arguments over disputable matters. One has faith to eat all things while the weak eats only vegetables. The one who eats [everything] should not look down on the one who does not eat. The one who does not eat should not judge the one who eats because God has accepted him. Who are you who judge someone else’s servant? He stands or falls to his own master! Yes, that one will be made [able] to stand, because God has the power to make someone stand.

One person considers that a [particular] day is more important [than the others]. Another thinks that every day is alike. Let each in his own mind be fully convinced. The one who observes the day should observe it ‘to the Lord’; and the one who does not observe it should do so ‘to the Lord’. The one who eats should eat ‘to the Lord’ because he gives thanks to God! Likewise, the one who does not eat should do so ‘to the Lord’ because such he [also] gives thanks to God! Indeed, we do not live selfishly and we do not die for ourselves. In fact, if we live, we live ‘to the Lord;’ or if we die, we die ‘to the Lord’. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. It is for this purpose that Christ died, rose, and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.’*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-27

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Be ‘doers of the word’; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a ‘hearer of the word’ and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-30

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way. When they had tied him up with straps, Paul asked the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman [citizen] and uncondemned?”

When the centurion heard this, he went to the commanding officer and told him, “Do you realize what you are about to do? This man is a Roman [citizen]!”

Then the commanding officer came and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman?”

Paul replied, “Yes!”

The commanding officer answered, “I bought my citizenship for a great price!”

“But I was born a Roman,” Paul replied.

Immediately those who were about to examine him left him, and even the commanding officer was afraid when he realized that he had bound Paul, Roman [citizen], in chains. But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together. He then brought Paul down and set him before them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:19-15:7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, “The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, “Sit here in a good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there,” or “Sit by my footstool!” Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:1-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Looking straight at the Sanhedrin, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day.” Then Ananias, the high priest, ordered those who stood by him to strike Paul on the mouth.

At this, Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to judge me according to the law, and [yet] command me to be struck contrary to the law?”

Those who stood by said, “Do you insult God’s high priest?”

Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’” But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 1:20-35 (should this be 33?)

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom sings in the streets;

She moves boldly in the squares.

She preaches on high city walls

And sits at the gates of lords.

At the gates of a city she boldly says,

“So long a time as the simple hold fast to righteousness,

They shall not be ashamed;

But those without discernment, since they are desirous of arrogance,

And are become ungodly, they hate perception,

And are become subject to reproofs.

Behold, I shall bring forth upon you the utterance of my breath,

And I shall teach you my word.

Since I called, but you did not obey,

And spoke at length, but you paid no attention,

But made my counsels invalid,

And were not persuaded by my reproofs;

Consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation,

And will exult when ruin comes to you,

And when confusion reaches you unawares,

And overthrow comes like a whirlwind,

And when tribulation and anguish come to you,

And when destruction comes to you.

For it shall be, when you shall call upon me,

I will not listen to you;

Evil men will seek me, but not find me,

For they hate wisdom, and choose not the fear of the Lord.

Neither do they wish to follow my counsels,

But despise my reproofs.

Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way

And be filled with their own ungodliness.

For since they wrong the simple, they shall be killed,

And a close examination shall destroy the ungodly.

But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope,

And shall be at rest without fear from every evil.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 8:13-9:6 (should this be 7?)

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Sanctify the Lord Himself, and He shall be your fear. So if you trust in Him, He shall be as a sanctuary for you, and you shall not come against Him as a stumbling stone nor as a rock of disaster. But the house of Jacob lies in wait with a snare, and those in Jerusalem with a trap. Therefore many among them shall be powerless and fall, and be broken, and men who are in safety shall draw near and be conquered.”

Then they who seal the law so as not to learn it themselves shall be evident. But One will say, “I shall wait for God who turned His face away from the house of Jacob, and I will trust in Him, behold, I and the children God gave me.” This will be for signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion. So if they should say to you, “Seek those who call from the earth and are ventriloquists, who speak from the belly,” should not a nation seek their God? Why do they seek the dead on behalf of the living? He gave the law to help them, so as not to speak such a word as this, concerning which word there are no gifts to offer with it. Thus a harsh famine will come upon you, and it shall be, when you are hungry, you will be grieved, and speak badly of your ruler and the idols. Then they shall look up to heaven above, and on the earth below, and behold, tribulation, distress, and darkness. There will be severe despair and darkness, so dark one cannot see. And the one who is in despair shall be perplexed, but only for a time.

Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine. The multitude of the people, whom You brought down in Your joy, they shall also rejoice in Your presence, as those who rejoice in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoils. For the yoke lying upon them and the rod upon their neck is taken away, for the Lord broke the rod of the exactors as in the day of Midian. For every robe and garment gathered by deceit, they shall repay with money, and they shall be willing to do this, even though they were burned with fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:5

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral; yet I did not mean with the immoral people of this world, or with those who are greedy, dishonest, or idolaters; or else you would have to leave the world! But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging

those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers?

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:3-12 (should this be 2?)

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:10-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At once, the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now, the Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men. But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Beroea, they came there to stir up the crowds. Then, the brethren immediately led Paul away to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained there.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 2:1-15

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you receive the words of my commandment

And hide them within yourself,

Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,

And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.

For if he calls upon wisdom,

And you utter your voice for understanding;

If you seek perception with a strong voice,

If you seek her as silver

And search for her as treasure,

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord

And find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

And from His face come knowledge and understanding;

And He stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;

And He will carefully guard the way of those who reverence Him.

Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,

And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

And the perception in your soul seems to be good,

Then good counsel will guard you,

And holy thinking will keep you;

That it might rescue you from an evil way

And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness

So they may walk in the ways of darkness,

Who delight in evils

And rejoice in evil perversion,

Whose ways are crooked

And their paths devious.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 10:12-20

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But it shall come to pass, when the Lord has completed all He will do on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, He will go against the arrogant heart of the king of the Assyrians and the glory of his haughty looks. For he said, “I shall act in my strength and by the wisdom of my understanding. I also shall remove the boundaries of the nations and plunder their strength. I shall shake their inhabited cities. I shall overtake with my hand all the inhabited world as a nest, and take them as eggs that have been left. There is no one who can escape or oppose me.”

Shall the ax glorify itself without him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself without him who saws with it? It is likewise if one should lift a rod or a piece of wood. But it shall not be so, for the Lord of hosts will send dishonor against your honor; and He will kindle a burning fire against your glory. So the Light of Israel will be as a fire, and He will sanctify him with burning fire; and it will devour the wood like grass on that day. The mountains, the hills, and the forests will be consumed, and devour both soul and body, and he who flees will be like one fleeing from a burning flame. Then the remnant will be few in number, and a child shall write them.

It shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel and those of Jacob who were saved will never again obey those who wronged them; but they will trust in God, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 7:1-26\*

From the book of Joshua, the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But the children of Israel committed a great offense, for they kept back for themselves something from what was accursed. Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took something from what was accursed, and the Lord was very angry with the sons of Israel. Then Joshua sent men into Ai, which is near Bethel, saying, “Spy out Ai.” So the men went up, and spied out Ai. After this, they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and force the city to surrender. Do not lead all the people there, for they are few in number.” Thus, about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the face of the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed thirty-six of them and pursued them from the gate; and they crushed them on the steep slope. So the hearts of the people were terrified and became as water.

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the ground before the face of the Lord until evening, both he and the elders of Israel, and they put dust on their heads. Joshua said, “I beseech You, O Lord. Why did Your servant lead this people over Jordan to deliver them to the Amorite to destroy us? If only we had remained and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan. What shall I say, since Israel turned his back before his enemy? When the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land hear this, they will surround us and destroy us from off the land. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

So the Lord said to Joshua, “Rise up. Why have you fallen upon your face? The people sinned and transgressed the covenant I made with them; for they stole something from what was accursed and put it among their goods. So the sons of Israel will be unable to stand against the face of their enemies. They will turn their backs before their enemies, because they are accursed; and I will not be with you until you remove the accursed thing from among you. Rise up and sanctify the people; and tell them to be sanctified for tomorrow. Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘The accursed thing is among you. You shall not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove the accursed thing from among you. In the morning you shall all be gathered together by your tribes, and it shall come to pass that the tribe the Lord points out, you shall bring forward family by family. Then the family the Lord points out, you shall bring household by household. After this, the household the Lord points out, you shall bring man by man. So whoever is pointed out, he shall be burned with fire along with whatever he has, because he transgressed the covenant of the Lord and brought lawlessness in Israel.’ ”

Now Joshua arose early in the morning and gathered the people tribe by tribe; and the tribe of Judah was pointed out. Then he brought family by family, and the family of Zara was pointed out. After this, he brought man by man, and Achan, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, was pointed out. Thus, Joshua said to Achan, “Give glory to the Lord God of Israel today and make confession. Tell me what you did and hide nothing from me.”

So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. Thus and thus I did: I saw a beautiful, multicolored garment in the spoil and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of fifty shekels of gold. I desired them and took them. Behold, they are hidden in the ground in my tent, and the silver is concealed under them.” Then Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent in the camp. These things were hidden in the tent, with the silver under them. They carried them from the tent; and they brought them to Joshua and the elders of Israel and placed them before the Lord.

After this, Joshua took Achan the son of Zerah and led him up to the Valley of Achor, along with his sons and daughters, and his calves, and all his donkeys and sheep, and his tent and all his belongings. Thus he led them all to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said to Achan, “Why did you destroy us? May the Lord destroy you this very day.” Then all Israel stoned him with stones; and they put over him a great heap of stones, and the Lord ceased from the wrath of his anger. Therefore and to this day, the place is named the Valley of Achor.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:1-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:1-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 4:19b-6:13

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.” Then Moses took his wife and sons and set them on beasts of burden; and he returned to the land of Egypt, and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. Again, the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you work before Pharaoh all the wonders I put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, and he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My firstborn son. So I say to you, ‘Let My people go so they may serve Me.’ But if you refuse to let them go, indeed, I will kill your firstborn son.” ’ ”

Thus it came to pass on the way, at the inn, that the Angel of the Lord met him and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son, and fell at His feet and said, “The flow of blood from my son’s circumcision is stopped.” So He departed from him, because she said, “The flow of blood from my son’s circumcision is stopped.” Now the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the desert to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and they kissed one another. Then Moses reported to Aaron all the words of the Lord which He sent to him, and all the signs which He commanded him. Thus Moses and Aaron went and gathered together the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron then spoke all the words the Lord spoke to Moses, and he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed and rejoiced because God had visited the children of Israel and because He had seen their affliction. Then the people bowed and worshiped.

Now after this Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, so they may hold a feast to Me in the desert.’ ” Then Pharaoh said, “Who is He, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.” So they said, “The God of the Hebrews has called us to Him. Let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest at any time death or slaughter happen to us.” Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Why, Moses and Aaron, do you take the people from their work? Get back to your work.” Again Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are many now, so let us not give them rest from their work.”

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their clerks, saying, “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks as yesterday and the day before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. Furthermore, you shall lay on them a daily quota of bricks they are to do each day. You shall hold them to it. You shall not reduce it, for they are loafers; therefore they cry out, saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ Let the labors of these men be oppressive and cause them anxiety; and let them not pay attention to empty words.”

So the taskmasters of the people and their clerks went out and spoke to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh: ‘I will not give you straw. Go, get it yourselves wherever you can find it; yet nothing will be reduced from your workload.’ ” The people were then dispersed throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters also forced them to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your daily quota of work as when straw was given you.” Also the clerks from the race of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters set over them, were beaten and questioned, “Why have you not fulfilled your task in making bricks both yesterday and the day before, and also today?”

Then the clerks of Israel’s sons entered and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, “Why are you dealing thus with your servants? No straw is given your servants, and they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ and indeed, your servants are beaten, but the fault is with your own people.” But he said, “You are loafers! You are loafers! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ Now therefore, go and work; for no straw shall be given you; yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks.” So the clerks from the children of Israel saw they were in trouble after it was said, “You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota.”

Then as they departed from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron, who stood there to meet them. They said to them, “Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in his hand to kill us.”

So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You sent me? From the time I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has afflicted this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them from his land.”

God also spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their God, but I did not reveal to them My name, Lord. I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of the Canaanites, the land of their sojourn, in which they were strangers. I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the Egyptian tyranny; I will rescue you from their bondage and redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments. I will take you as My people and be your God. Then you shall know I am the Lord your God who brought you out from under the Egyptian tyranny. I will also bring you into the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.’ ” So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they paid no heed to Moses because of their faintheartedness and cruel bondage.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to send forth the children of Israel from his land.” Moses then spoke before the Lord, saying, “The children of Israel have paid no heed to me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I am not eloquent?” Thus the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to send forth the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:21-26

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 9:8-10:4

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

All the people will know—Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—who say in pride and arrogance of heart, “The bricks fell, but let us hew stones; and let us cut down sycamores and cedars, and we shall build ourselves a tower.” 10But God shall overthrow those who rise up against them on Mt. Zion, and scatter their enemies: 11the Syrians from the rising of the sun, the Greeks from the setting of the sun, and those who shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. 12But the people did not turn until they were struck, yet they did not seek the Lord. 13So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel, great and small, in one day. 14The elder and those who admire persons, this is the head. The prophet who teaches lawlessness, this is the tail. 15For those who bless this people lead them astray, and they lead them astray so as to destroy them. 16Therefore God will have no joy in their young men, nor mercy on their orphans and widows. For all of them are lawless and evil. Every mouth speaks injustices. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. 17For lawlessness burns like fire, and like dry grass, it shall be consumed by fire and burn in the thickets of the forest. It shall devour all the hills round about. 18Because of the Lord’s wrath the entire land is burned up, and the people are as fuel for the fire. No man will have mercy on his brother. 19But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand and not be satisfied. Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. 20Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh. Together they shall besiege Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

1“Woe to those who write evil things, for when they write such things, 2they turn aside judgment from the poor, and rob judgment from the needy of My people, that the widow may be their prey and the orphan a spoil. 3What will they do in the day of visitation? For affliction will come to you from afar, and to whom will you flee for help? Where will you leave your glory, 4so as not to fall into captivity?” For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 12, 13, 14

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“Moreover you are men.

Surely wisdom will die with you?

But I also have a heart as well as you.

“A righteous and blameless man

Has become an object of mockery.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

Under the power of others at the appointed time,

And his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

Let not, however, any one be persuaded

That, if he is evil, he will be held innocent.

Let not those who provoke the Lord

Be persuaded there will be no trial for them.

“But now ask the four-footed animals if they may speak to you,

And the birds of the air if they may report it to you.

Tell the earth if it may interpret it to you,

And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among all these does not know

The hand of the Lord created them,

That in His hand is the life of every living thing,

And the breath of every man?

For indeed, the ear discerns words,

And the palate tastes wheat.

In length of time is wisdom,

And in long life, knowledge.

“With Him are wisdom and power;

With Him are counsel and understanding.

If He tears down a house, who will build it up again?

If He closes a door against men, who will open it?

If He withholds the water, He will dry up the earth;

If He lets it loose, He will destroy and ruin it.

With Him are might and strength.

He has knowledge and understanding.

He leads counselors away captive

And makes fools of judges.

He sets kings upon thrones

And binds their waist with a belt.

He sends priests away into captivity

And overthrows the mighty of the earth.

He changes the lips of the faithful

And knows the understanding of elders.

He pours dishonor on rulers

And heals the humble.

He uncovers deep things out of darkness

And has brought into light the shadow of death.

He leads the nations astray and destroys them.

He overthrows the nations and leads them away.

He changes the hearts of rulers

And leads them astray in a way they have not known.

May they grope in darkness,

And may they go astray like a drunken man.

“Behold, my eye has seen all these things,

And my ear has heard them.

What you know, I also know;

I am not of lesser understanding than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the Lord

And will reason before Him if He wills.

For you are all dishonest physicians and healers of diseases.

But would that you were silent,

For it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the conviction of my mouth

And heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord

And utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

But you yourselves be judges.

Would it be well for you if He searched you out?

For if you make every effort to join yourselves to Him,

He will surely rebuke you if you also secretly show favoritism.

Will not His terror make you dizzy

And His fear fall upon you?

In the end, your insolence will go away like ashes

And your body like clay.

“Be silent, that I may speak

And put my anger to rest,

So I may take my flesh in my teeth

And put my life in my hand.

Though the Mighty One should lay His hand upon me,

And already He has begun,

I will speak and reason before Him.

This will turn for me into salvation,

For there shall be no deceit before Him.

Listen, listen to my words,

For I will report them in your hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:

I know I shall appear righteous.

Who is he who will judge me,

That I should now be silent and be wanting?

“Grant me two things,

Then I will not hide my face from You:

Withdraw Your hand far from me,

And let not the fear of You terrify me.

Then You will call, and I will obey You;

Or You will speak, then I will give You an answer.

How many are my sins and transgressions?

Teach me what they are.

Why do You hide Yourself from me

And regard me as Your enemy?

Will You take heed of me as a leaf shaken by the wind?

Or will You set Yourself against me as grass blown by the wind?

For You wrote evil things against me

And compassed me with the sins of my youth.

You have put my foot in the stocks,

Have watched all my works,

And have penetrated into the roots of my feet,

Which have become old like a wineskin

Or like a moth-eaten garment.

“For mortal man born of woman

Is short-lived and full of wrath.

He falls like a flower that blooms,

And like a shadow, he does not continue.

Have You not taken account of him

And brought him to judgment before You?

For who shall be pure from uncleanness? No one.

Even if his life is but one day upon the earth,

His months are numbered by You.

You appointed a time for him, and he cannot exceed it.

Depart from him that he may rest,

And let him be pleased with his life as a hired laborer.

“For there is hope for a tree, even if it is cut down,

That it will sprout again, and its tender shoots will not fail.

For though its root may grow old in the earth

And its stump may die in the rocky ground,

Yet at the scent of water it will bud

And bring forth a crop like one newly planted.

But a man who dies is utterly gone,

And when a mortal has fallen, he is no more.

For in time the sea is drawn down,

And a river stops flowing,

And the river bed dries up.

So too, when man falls asleep in death, he will not rise,

For the dead will not awake until heaven is dissolved.

“For would that You had kept me in the grave,

That You had hidden me until Your wrath ceases,

And that You would appoint me a set time

In which You would remember me.

For will man live again

After he completes his course of life and dies?

I will wait until I arise.

Then You will call, and I will answer You,

But do not cast away the works of Your hands.

For You have numbered my practices,

And not one of my sins will escape You.

You sealed up my lawlessness in a bag

And marked if I transgressed unwillingly.

“Truly a mountain falls and crumbles in pieces;

And a rock wears out in its place.

Waters wear away stones,

And overflowing torrents wash away the soil of the earth;

And You destroy the duration of man.

You push him to his end, and he is gone.

You set your face against him and send him away.

If his children multiply themselves, he does not know it,

And if they be few, he does not perceive it.

But the muscles of his body feel pain,

And his soul grieves.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:9-17

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 2:9-15

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to hold the wicked for their punishment on the day of judgment, especially those follow the desires of their corrupt human nature and have no respect for [angelic] authority. Daring and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of the glorious ones, whereas angels, although greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. But these people act as creatures without reason, as natural animals [that are meant] to be taken and destroyed. They speak evil in matters about which they are ignorant and in their attempt to destroy they will surely be destroyed, receiving the wages of unrighteousness. These are people who consider it pleasurable to revel in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, amusing themselves in their deceit while they feast with you. Their eyes are full of adultery and they cannot break away from sin. They entice unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed and they are children of cursing. Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray by following the path of Balaam the son of Beor who loved being paid for doing evil.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:7-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leader of the island, [a man] named Publius who welcomed us and courteously entertained us for three days. It also happened that Publius’ father was bedridden, sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the people who had diseases in the island also came, and they were cured. They honored us in many ways, and when we sailed off, put on board the things that we needed.

Three months later, we set sail.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 18:17-19:29\*

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them.”

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Then the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.” So Abraham answered and said, “Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: But suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?” He replied, “If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.” Again he spoke to Him and said, “But suppose there should be forty found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of forty.” Then he said, “Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it if I should find thirty there.” Again he said, “Since I have permission to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of twenty.” Then he said, “Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

So the Lord went His way as soon as He finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. So when he saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed with his face toward the ground. Then he said, “Behold, my lords, turn in to your servant’s house and rest and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” But they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.” But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Now before they went to sleep, the men of the city, the Sodomites, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. Thus they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” But Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, “By no means, my brethren, do not act wickedly. I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the protection of my roof.”

But they said, “Stand back! You came in to sojourn among us. Was it also to be making judgments? Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands, pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, and they became weary trying to find the door.

Now the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here in the city: sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone? —then take them out of this place! 1or we will destroy this place, because their outcry has become great before the Lord, and the Lord sent us to destroy it.” So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord is about to wipe out this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Now when the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and the two daughters you have, and get out, lest you be destroyed with the transgressions of the city.” But they were thrown into confusion, and the Lord being merciful to him, the angels seized his hand, and the hands of his wife and two daughters, and brought them outside the city.

So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, they said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be overtaken.” Then Lot said to them, “I pray, O Lord, since Your servant found mercy in Your sight, and You magnified Your righteousness which You showed me by saving my life, nevertheless, I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city, which is small, is near enough to flee to for refuge, and I shall escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.” And He said to him, “See, I have acquiesced to you on this matter also, in that I will not overthrow this city, concerning which you have spoken. Therefore, hurry to escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” For this reason he called the name of that city Zoar.

Now the sun rose upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven. Thus He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Then Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, a flame was ascending from the land, like the smoke of a furnace. So it came to pass, when God wiped out all the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction, when the Lord overthrew the cities where Lot had dwelt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

##### Proverbs 2:17-3:4

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel,

Nor forsake the teaching of your youth

And forget the divine covenant;

For it establishes its house with death,

And its paths beside Hades with the dead;

All who journey there do not return,

Nor do they lay hold of straight paths;

For they do not comprehend the years of life.

For if they walked in good paths,

They would find the smooth paths of righteousness.

The inhabitants of the land will be good,

And the simple will be left in it;

For the upright will dwell in the land,

And the holy will be left in it.

The ways of the ungodly shall perish from the land,

And the lawless shall be banished from it.

My son, do not forget my laws,

But let your heart keep my words;

For length of days, and years of life and peace

They will add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you,

But hang them upon your neck;

And you will find grace

And provide good things before the Lord and men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 11:10-12:2

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“It shall come to pass in that day that there shall be a Root of Jesse who shall arise to rule nations. The Gentiles shall hope in Him, and His resting place shall be honorable.” It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will show His hand again to be zealous for the remnant left of His people: left by the Assyrians and by Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia, and by the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia. He shall set up a sign for the Gentiles and will assemble the lost ones of Israel. He shall gather together the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the enemies of Judah shall be destroyed. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim. But they shall spread sails on the ships of foreigners, and together they shall plunder the sea and the people of the East and Edom. They shall lay their hands first on Moab, but the sons of Ammon shall obey them first. The Lord shall make desolate the Sea of Egypt, and He will lay His hand on the river with a violent wind, and will strike the seven channels, that men might pass across it in sandals. “There shall be a highway for the remnant of My people in Egypt, and it will be for Israel as in the day he came out of the land of Egypt.”

And in that day, you will say, “I will bless You, O Lord. Although You were angry with me, You turned away Your anger and had mercy on me. Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:6-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:1-10

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The spirit which dwells in us longs to envy”? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:1-6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live.” However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

“Thus I prayed before the Lord; forty days and forty nights I kept praying, because the Lord said He would destroy you. Therefore, I prayed to God, and said, ‘O Lord, O Lord, O King of the gods, do not destroy Your people and Your portion You redeemed through Your great strength, whom You brought from the land of Egypt with Your great strength, Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself; do not look on the hardness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sins, lest those who inhabit the land You brought us from should say, “Because the Lord was unable to bring them to the land He promised them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the desert.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and outstretched arm.’

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on these tablets the words of the first tablets you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’ So I made an ark of wood not liable to decay, and hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, with the two tablets in my hands. Then He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets according to the first writing which the Lord spoke to you in the mountain, from the midst of the fire; and the Lord gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I made; and they were there, as the Lord commanded me.”

(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead. From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with rivers of water. At that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to minister to Him, and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, as He said to him.) “I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the Lord also heard me at that time, and the Lord chose not to destroy you. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go, and lead this people, so they may go in and inherit the land I swore to their fathers to give them.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 23:25-24:23 1 Samuel 23:26-24:22

From the first book of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Saul and his men went on one side of this mountain, and David and his men on the other side of this mountain. And David was hiding himself to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hasten and come here quickly, for the Philistines have invaded the land!” Therefore Saul turned back from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “David is in the desert of En Gedi.” Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaiem. On the way, he came across a flock of sheep, and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. And David’s men said to him, “Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective.” So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Then it happened that David’s heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. And David said to his men, “The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul.

So Saul got up from the cave and went his way. After Saul departed, David went out from the cave and cried out to Saul, saying, “My lord, O king!” And Saul looked back, and David, bowing to the ground, prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your life’? Take notice! This day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave; but I would not kill you. I spared you and said, ‘I will not put my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ Here in my hand is the corner of your robe! I cut off the corner, but did not kill you. See and know today, there is no evil or impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me from you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the ancient proverb says, ‘Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.’ Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand.”

And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Truly this is your voice, O son David.” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you repaid me with good, but I repaid you with evil. Today you make known how you dealt well with me, how when the Lord delivered me into your hand today, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy in distress and yet in a good way sends him out, the Lord will reward him with good, just as you did today. And now behold, I know that you shall be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hands. Therefore by the Lord, swear now to me that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.” So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 13:2-13

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. “I will command evils for all the inhabited world and the ungodly because of their sins, and I will destroy the insolence of the lawless and humble the haughtiness of the arrogant. Those left behind will be more valuable than fine gold tried in the fire, and a man more precious than the stone of Ophir. For heaven will be angry, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day His anger comes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 15:1-35

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Will a wise man give as an answer a breath of understanding,

And does he satisfy the pain in his belly,

Arguing with sayings which are not necessary

And with words wherein is no profit?

Have you not moreover cast off fear

And accomplished such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

Nor have you discerned the words of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and not I;

For your lips will testify against you.

“What? Are you the first man who was born?

Or were you made before the beaches?

Have you heard the doctrine of the Lord,

And has wisdom come only to you?

What do you know that we do not?

What do you understand that we do not also?

Both the aged and the very old are among us,

Much older than your father.

You have been punished for only a few of your sins;

You have spoken haughtily and exceedingly.

Why has your heart dared,

Or what are your eyes set on,

That you have vented your anger before the Lord

And brought forth such words from your mouth?

“For who is the mortal that shall be blameless,

Or who is born of a woman that shall be righteous,

Since He does not trust His saints

And heaven is not pure in His sight?

Alas then, detestable and unclean is a man

Who drinks wrongdoings like water!

“But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now seen,

What wise men say.

They did not hide anything received from their fathers.

To them alone the earth was given,

And no stranger came among them.

All the life of an ungodly man is spent in anxiety,

And the years granted an oppressor are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

And when he at last seems to be at peace,

His destruction comes.

Let him not believe he will return from darkness,

For he has already been given over to the power of the sword.

He has been appointed to be food for vultures,

And he knows in himself that he lives in a dead body;

And a dark day will carry him away like a whirlwind.

Trouble and anguish will come upon him,

And like a general he will fall in the first rank.

For he lifted his hands against the Lord

And acted defiantly against the Almighty Lord.

He ran in His sight with insolence,

With the thickness of his wide shield.

“For he covered his face with his fat

And put a collar upon his thighs.

May he lodge in deserted cities

And enter uninhabited houses;

And what they prepared, others will carry away.

Let him not grow rich, nor let his possessions remain;

Let him not cast a shadow upon the earth,

Neither let him escape the darkness.

Let the wind wither his blossom, and let his flower fall off.

Let him not believe he will endure,

For futility will be his reward.

His harvest will perish before its gathering,

And his branch will not flourish.

May he be gathered prematurely like unripe grapes,

And may he fall off like the blossom of an olive tree.

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

And fire will burn the houses of those who take bribes.

So he will conceive sorrows, his end will be vain,

And his belly shall bear deceit.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 2:1-3:4

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy. (\*)

Consider the ancient generations and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken?

Or who called upon Him and was overlooked?

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands,

And to a sinner who walks on two paths!

Woe to a fainting heart, because it does not believe!

Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

And those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

And those who love Him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts

And will humble their souls before Him.

We will fall into the hands of the Lord

And not into the hands of men;

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Give heed to me, O children, for I am your father,

And do what I tell you, that you may be saved.

For the Lord honored the father over the children

And strengthened the judgment of the mother over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for his sins;

And he who honors his mother

Is like one who stores up treasure.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

(\*) Some books end the reading here.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 17-25

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:6-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 7:2-11

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:14-26

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:12-35

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When day came, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty people who joined this conspiracy. They came to the chief priests and the presbyters, and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to eat nothing until we

have killed Paul. Now then, you with the Sanhedrin should petition the commanding officer to bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to judge his case more exactly. We are ready to kill him before he comes near!”

But Paul’s nephew heard of their ambush. He came and entered into the fortress and told Paul. Calling one of the centurions, Paul said, “Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him.”

Accordingly, the centurion took Paul’s nephew and brought him to the commanding officer, saying, “Paul, the prisoner, called me and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you.”

The commanding officer took Paul’s nephew by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?”

He replied, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though intending to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him. But to not give in to their request, for more than forty men lie in wait for Paul, and they have bound themselves under a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for you to grant their request.”

And so, the commanding officer let the young man go with this instruction, “Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me.” He called to himself two of the centurions, and said, “Prepare two hundred soldiers to leave at the third hour of the night for Caesarea, along with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears.” He asked them to provide animals in order set Paul on one, and to bring him safely to Felix the governor. He wrote a letter like this:

*“Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings!*

This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman [citizen]. Desiring to know why they accused him, I brought him to their council. I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but not to be charged with anything worthy of death or imprisonment. When I was told that the Jews were about to ambush this man, I immediately sent him to you. I also instructed his accusers to bring their accusations against him before you. Farewell.”

And so, the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. But on the next day, they left the horsemen to continue with him and returned to the barracks. When they arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and also presented Paul to him. After reading the letter, the governor asked what province Paul was from. Having learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, “I will hear you fully when your accusers also arrive.” He then commanded that Paul should be held in Herod’s palace.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Third Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 6:2-13

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

We have spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, and our heart is open wide. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us! In return, I speak to you as to my children: be open [to what we have to say].

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:1-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true. When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 27:1-41a

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. Then make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son; and Esau went to the field to hunt game for his father. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, “Indeed, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.’ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the sheep and bring me from there two kids, choice and good, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it and bless you before his death.”

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.” But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.” So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. She also put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the exposed part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob.

Thus he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it you have found it so quickly, my son?” He said, “Because the Lord your God brought it to me.” Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are my son Esau or not.” So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s.” Thus he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, “Are you my son Esau?” He said, “I am.”

He said, “Bring your game to me, my son, and I will eat from it, that my soul may bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing.

Thus he blessed him and said:

“Surely, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field the Lord has blessed.

Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven

And of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brethren,

And let your mother’s sons bow down to you.

And cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

Now it happened, as soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob his son, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed, he shall be blessed.” When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!” But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.” Then Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing.” So he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?” Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth,

And of the dew of heaven from above.

By your sword you shall live,

And you shall serve your brother;

And it shall come to pass, when you become restless,

That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Thus Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 14:24-32

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I said, so it shall come to pass. As I purposed, so it shall remain—to destroy the Assyrians in My land and on My mountains. They shall be for trampling underfoot, and their yoke shall be taken away; and their renown shall be removed from their shoulders.” This is the purpose the Lord purposed upon all the inhabited world. His hand is lifted up over all the nations of the inhabited earth. For who will reject what the holy God purposed? Who will turn away His uplifted hand?

In the year King Ahaz died, this word came: “Do not be glad, all you foreigners, for the yoke of him who struck you is broken to pieces. For from the seed of serpents shall come forth the young asps, and their offspring shall be flying serpents. The poor will be fed by him, and poor men will rest in peace, but he shall destroy your seed with hunger, and he will destroy your remnant. Wail, gates of the cities, cry out, troubled cities, even all the foreigners, for smoke is coming from the north, and you will be no more!” What will the kings of the nations answer? For the Lord founded Zion, and the humble of His people shall be saved.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 16, 17

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“I have heard many such things;

You are all bad comforters.

What order is there in words of wind?

Or what troubles you, that you answer thus?

I also could speak as you do,

If indeed your soul were in my soul’s place.

Then I would attack you with words

And shake my head at you.

But would there were strength in my mouth:

Then I would not spare the movement of my lips.

“If I should speak, I would feel the pain of my wound,

But if I also should be silent, how would I be less wounded?

But now He has made me weary and a worn-out fool,

And you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testimony.

It rises up and argues against me to my face.

He vented His wrath and struck me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

The arrows of the raiders fell on me.

He attacked me with the sharp darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek;

With one accord they ran me down.

For the Lord delivered me into the hands of an unjust man

And cast me upon the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He rejected me.

He took me by the hair of my head and pulled it out.

He set me up as a mark.

They surrounded me with spears aimed at my mind.

Without sparing me, they poured out my gall on the ground.

Running at me with all their strength,

They knocked me down, head over heels.

I sewed sackcloth on my skin,

And my strength is spent on the ground.

My belly is on fire because of weeping,

And shade is on my eyelids.

Yet there was no wrongdoing in my hands,

And my prayer is pure.

O earth, do not cover the blood of my flesh,

Nor may my cry have a place.

Now behold, my witness is in the heavens,

And the One who knows me thoroughly is on high.

May my supplication come before the Lord,

And may my eyes pour out tears in His presence.

May there be rebuttal for a man before the Lord,

As a son of man with his neighbor.

For my years are numbered,

And I shall go the way of no return.

“I am perishing, carried away by the wind;

And I ask for a burial-place, but cannot obtain it.

I am tired of entreating, yet what have I done?

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is he? Let him join hands with me.

For You hid their heart from discernment;

Therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will declare evils as their portion,

But my eyes melt away because of my children.

“But You made me a byword among the people,

And I have become an object of laughter to them.

For my eyes are petrified because of Your wrath,

And I am greatly besieged by everyone.

Amazement seizes true men because of this,

And the righteous man rises against the lawless man.

May the faithful man hold to his way,

And may those who have clean hands take courage.

“Nevertheless, all of you stick together,

And indeed come, for I did not find you to be true.

My days have passed in groaning

And my heartstrings are broken.

Light turned night into day.

It is near at the appearance of darkness.

If I tarry, Hades is my home,

And my bed is spread in darkness.

I called upon death to be my father

And decay to be my mother and my sister.

Where then is my hope,

Or where shall I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

Or shall we go down together in the tomb?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:12-26

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit ofadoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint- heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:16-20

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!” But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 28:10-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God’s house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 25:1-26:9a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation.” For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

1In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: “Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 18:1-21

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“How long will you keep talking?

Pay close attention so we may also speak.

Why have we been silent before you

Like four-footed animals?

Wrath possesses you. Suppose you die;

Would the earth under heaven be uninhabited,

Or the mountains be overturned from their foundations?

“The light of the ungodly will go out,

And their flame will not go up.

His light shall be dark in his dwelling,

And his lamp beside him shall be put out.

May the least of men pounce on his goods,

And let his counsel stumble him.

For his foot has been caught in a snare,

And he is entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him.

He shall strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

A snare is hidden in the ground for him,

And a capture awaits him on the beaten paths.

May sorrows destroy him on every side;

And may many enemies come about him

And plague him with severe hunger,

For a destruction out of the ordinary is prepared for him.

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

For death will consume his beauty.

May health be banished from his dwelling,

And may distress seize him because of a royal decree.

It shall dwell in his tent at night,

And his goodly appearance shall be sown with brimstone.

His roots shall be dried out from below,

And his crop shall be trampled from above.

His memory shall perish from the earth,

And his name shall be remembered no more.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He shall not be known among his people,

Nor his house preserved on the earth;

But others shall live among his possessions.

The last groaned for him, and wonder seized the first.

These are the dwellings of wrongdoers,

And this is the place of those who do not know the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 8:1-10:1

From the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not contend sharply with a powerful man,

Lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

Lest he resist your force,

For gold has destroyed many

And perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend sharply with a talkative man,

And do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with an uncultivated man,

Lest your forefathers be insulted.

Do not insult a man who turns away from sin;

Remember that we are all valuable.

Do not dishonor a man in his old age,

For some of us are growing old as well.

Do not rejoice over any dead person;

Remember that we all must die.

Do not disregard a saying of the wise,

But be conversant with their proverbs;

Because from them you will gain instruction

And how to serve noble people.

Do not miss a saying of the old,

For they themselves learned from their fathers;

Because from them you will gain understanding

And be able to give an answer in time of need.

Do not kindle the coals of a sinner,

For you may be burned by his flame.

Do not let the presence of an insolent man

Arouse you from your seat,

Lest he lie in wait as an ambush against your words.

Do not lend to a man stronger than you;

But if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety beyond your ability to pay;

But if you do give surety, be as careful as one who has to pay.

Do not go to law against a judge,

For they will decide for him because of his reputation.

Do not travel on a journey with a reckless man,

Lest he weigh you down;

For he will do his will,

And you will perish with him in his folly.

Do not cause a fight with an angry man,

And do not go into a lonely place with him,

Because murder is as nothing in his eyes,

And where there is no help, he will strike you down.

Do not consult with a fool,

For he will not keep a matter confidential.

Do nothing confidential in the presence of a stranger,

For you do not know what he will give birth to.

Do not open your heart to everyone,

Lest unkindness be shown to you.

Do not be jealous of the wife of your bosom

And so teach her an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

To let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a woman who is a courtesan,

Lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

Lest you be caught in her schemes.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

Lest you stumble and pay damages for her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look around in the streets of a city,

And do not wander about in its deserted sections.

Turn your eye away from a woman with a shapely figure,

And do not gaze at beauty belonging to another.

Many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman,

And erotic love is like a burning fire.

Never dine with another man’s wife,

And do not share in parties with her over wine,

Lest your soul turn aside to her,

And you slip and with your spirit fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

For a new one is not equal with him.

A new friend is like new wine;

Drink it with pleasure only after it ages.

Do not envy the honor given a sinner,

For you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly;

Remember, they will not be declared righteous even in Hades.

Keep far away from a man who has the power to kill,

And you will not be anxious about the fear of death.

But if you come near him, do not offend him,

Lest he take away your life.

Know that you are stepping in the midst of snares

And walking about the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbors as best you can

And consult with those who are wise.

Let your reasoning be with those who are wise,

And let all your talk be about the law of the Most High.

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

And let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord.

A work will be praised for the skill of its craftsmen,

And a wise leader of people for the skill of his words.

A talkative man is regarded with fear in his city,

And a man who is reckless in his speech will be hated.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 2:2-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives. He delivered the righteous Lot who was very distressed by the lustful behavior of these wicked people; that righteous man was living among them and was tormented every day in his righteous soul when he saw and heard lawless deeds.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:1-3

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 7:14-8:15

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. Then you shall say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert”; but indeed, until now you would not hear. Thus says the Lord: “By this you shall know I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river.” ’ ” Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.’ ”

So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said. Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. The frogs shall come up on you, your people, and all your servants.” ’ ”

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers did the same with their sorceries and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, and let Him take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord.” Moses replied to Pharaoh, “Appoint me a time when I shall pray for you, for your servants, and for your people to make the frogs disappear from you, your people, and your houses. Only in the river will they remain.” So Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow.” Moses then said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know this is none other than the Lord. Now the frogs shall depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. Then they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.’ ” Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 3:1-5

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. And I shall give wonders in the heavens and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 1:1-22

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, “Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God.” Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, “Where did you come from?” So the devil answered the Lord and said, “I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven.” Then the Lord said to him, “Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?” So the devil answered and said before the Lord, “Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face.” Then the Lord said to the devil, “Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him.” Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job’s sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, “The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then raiders came and took them captive and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, “Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother, and suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped, saying, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

In all these things that happened, Job did not sin against the Lord or charge God with folly.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 26:21-27:9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the inhabitants of the earth, and the earth will uncover its blood and will not cover its slain.

In that day, God will bring His holy, great, and strong sword upon the fleeing dragon serpent, the perverse dragon serpent that flees; and He shall destroy the dragon. In that day, there shall be a beautiful vineyard, and a desire to begin a hymn against a city: “I am a strong city, a besieged city; I water it in vain; for it shall be taken at night, and its wall shall fall by day. There is no woman who has not taken hold of it. Who will appoint me to guard straw in a field? I rejected it because of this enemy. For that very reason therefore, the Lord God did all the things He ordered. I am burned down.” Those who dwell in it will cry out, “Let us make peace with Him, let us make peace.” Those who come are the children of Jacob. Israel shall bud and put forth flowers, and the inhabited earth shall be filled with its fruit. As he struck, shall he not be thus struck? As he slew, shall he not be thus slain? Fighting and denouncing he shall send them away. Did you not think with a harsh spirit about killing them in a spirit of anger? Therefore the lawlessness of Jacob will be removed; and this is his blessing when I take away his sin, when they make all the stones of the altars beaten like fine dust. Their trees do not remain, and their idols shall be cut down like a distant forest.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:17-32

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. They are darkened in their understanding, cut off from God’s life because of their ignorance and because of the hardening of their hearts. Having become hardened, such people gave themselves up to lust and they pursue what is impure with greed. But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:13-4:4

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This ‘wisdom’ is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:26b-12:2

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 32:2-30

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is God’s encampment”; and he called the name of that place Encampments.

Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says, “I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight.” ’ ” Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him.” So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. Thus Jacob said, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape.”

Again Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,’ let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’ ”

So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, “Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves.” And he commanded the first one, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?’ Then you shall say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’ ” So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’ ” For he said to himself, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men.”

Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And he said, “Why do you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God: “For I saw God face to face, and my soul was saved.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 28:14-22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, “We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected”; therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 20:1-29

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“I did not suppose you would answer in that way;

Nor do you understand more than I.

I will heed the discipline of my humiliation,

And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

“Have you not heard these things of old—

From the time man was put on the earth?

For the gladness of the ungodly is a disastrous fall,

And the joy of transgressors is destruction.

Though his gifts ascend to heaven

And his sacrifice touches the clouds,

Just when he already seems to be established,

Then he shall utterly perish;

And those who knew him will say, ‘Where is he?’

Like a dream he flew away and cannot be found;

And he fled like a vision of the night.

The eye observed him, but will see him no more;

Nor will his place any longer behold him.

May his children perish,

And may his vile hands kindle the fire of sorrows.

His bones were full of his youthful vigor,

Which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth,

And he will hide it under his tongue,

Though he will not spare it and will not forsake it,

But will hold it fast in the midst of his throat,

Yet he shall be unable to help himself,

For the gall of an asp is in his belly.

His wealth gathered unjustly shall be vomited up,

And a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he nurse on the anger of serpents;

And may a snake’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

Nor his supplies of honey and butter.

In vain he has labored unprofitably for wealth,

Of which he will not taste;

For it is like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he crushed the houses of many weak people.

He plundered their dwelling and caused it to cease.

“There is no salvation in his possessions,

For he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his good things will not flourish.

But when he at last seems to be satisfied, he will be distressed,

For every trouble will come upon him.

If he were to satisfy his stomach in some way,

Let God send the fury of wrath upon him,

And may He bathe him in sorrows.

He will not be saved from the power of the sword;

May a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pass through his body,

And may lightning strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that will not go out will consume him.

May a stranger ruin his house.

May heaven uncover his lawlessness,

And may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

And may a day of wrath come upon him.

This is the portion of an ungodly man from the Lord,

And the heritage appointed to him from the One who watches him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 6:2-28

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

It pleased Darius to set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so they might be throughout his entire kingdom. He also set three administrators above these, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, that the king might not be troubled. But Daniel excelled beyond them, because there was an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. The administrators and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel, but they could find no charge or wrongdoing or fault against him because he was faithful. Then the administrators said, “We will find nothing against Daniel unless we find it in the laws of his God.”

So the administrators and the governors stood before the king and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now therefore, O king, establish the decree and exhibit the writing publicly, so the decree of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed.” Then King Darius gave orders to write the decree.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree was posted, he entered his house, where the windows facing Jerusalem were open to him in the upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks to his God, as he was doing before. Then those men watched Daniel closely and found him praying and making supplication before his God. So they approached the king and said, “O king, did you not give orders that any man who petitioned anything from any god or man, except from you, he would be cast into the den of lions?” The king replied, saying, “The word is true, and the decree of the Medes and Persians shall not pass away.”

Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is from the captives of Judea, does not obey your order concerning the decree you commanded, for he prays and petitions his God three times a day.” Then when the king heard this word, he was very sad in himself, and he struggled hard to deliver Daniel, and did his best to deliver him until evening. Then those men said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute the king establishes can be altered.”

After that, the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” Then they brought a stone and placed it over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his ring and with the ring of his nobles, so the matter concerning Daniel might not be changed. The king then went to his house and spent the night without his evening meal; for they brought no meats to him, and his sleep departed from him. Now God shut the mouths of the lions, and they did not trouble Daniel.

Then the king arose early in the morning at daybreak and went in haste to the den of lions. As he approached the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they did not destroy me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and I did no wrongdoing in His sight.”

Then the king rejoiced greatly over him and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den; and no corruption was found in him, because he believed in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought the men who brought charges against Daniel; and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. They did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Now Darius the king wrote to all peoples, tribes, and languages who dwell in all the earth:

“May peace be multiplied to you.

“A decree was made in my presence, that in every dominion of my kingdom, men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, because He is the living God; He endures unto the ages. His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall continue to the end. He helps and rescues, and works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full- grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:11-5:3

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit.” But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His ordinances I command you today for your good? Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy-five souls, and now, the Lord your God made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

“Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, and always keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His judgments. Know today, I do not speak with your children, who have not known and seen the chastening of the Lord your God, nor His greatness and mighty hand and outstretched arm— the signs and wonders He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horse and chariots; how He made the water of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord destroyed them to this day; what He did for you in the desert until you came to this place; and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up in the midst of Israel, along with their households, tents, and all the substance in their possession—but your eyes saw all the great works the Lord did for you today.

“Therefore, you shall keep all His commandments I command you today, that you may live and increase and go in and inherit the land you are crossing the Jordan to inherit, and may prolong your days in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, to them and their seed after them, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ For the land you go to inherit is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land you are crossing over to inherit is a land of hills and plains, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land the Lord your God looks upon; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

“So if you earnestly obey all His commandments I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then He will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, wine, and olive oil. I will also send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be filled. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord’s anger be aroused against you and He shut up heaven, so there may be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land the Lord gave you.

“Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be immovable before your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates, that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, like days of heaven on earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments I command you today—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—then the Lord will cast out all these nations from before your face, and you will inherit greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the desert and Antilebanon, and from the great Euphrates River, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against your face; the Lord your God will put the dread and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, in the manner the Lord said to you.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but go astray from the way I command you today, to go after different gods you have not known.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 29:13-23

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said, “These people draw near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and hide the understanding of the intelligent.” Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us or what we do?” Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is molded of clay say to him who molded it, “You did not create me”? Or shall the work say to him who made it, “You did not make me wisely”? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, as well as those who cause men to sin in word. They shall make all who condemn at the gates an offense, because they turned aside the righteous man with wrongdoing. Therefore the Lord says this concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart out of Abraham: “Now Jacob shall not be ashamed, nor shall Israel now change his countenance. But when their children see My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 21:1-34

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“Listen carefully to my words,

That I may not have this consolation from you.

Bear with me and I will speak;

Then you will stop laughing at me.

“What? Is there any one who does not blame me?

Or why should I not be furious?

Look at me and be astonished,

And put your hand over your mouth.

For even when I remember, I am alarmed,

And pains take hold of my flesh.

Why do the ungodly live and become old, even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to their desire,

And their children are before their eyes.

Their houses flourish, and they have no cause for fear;

Neither is there any affliction from the Lord upon them.

Their ox does not miscarry,

For it is preserved safe during pregnancy

And does not suffer a mishap.

They remain as an unfailing herd,

And their children dance,

Taking up the psaltery and harp;

And they celebrate at the sound of song.

They spend their life in their good things

And fall asleep in the rest of the grave.

Yet such a man says to the Lord,

‘Depart from me. I do not wish to know Your ways.

What is a sufficient reason for us to serve Him?

What benefit is it for us to meet Him?’

For their good things are in their power,

For He does not take notice of the works of the ungodly.

“Nevertheless, the lamp of the ungodly will be put out.

Destruction shall come upon them,

And the sorrows of wrath will seize them.

They are like chaff before the wind,

And they are like dust a storm carries away.

May his possessions fail to supply his children.

God will recompense him, and he will not know it.

May his eyes see his own slaughter,

And may he not be saved by the Lord.

For is his will not in his house with himself?

But the number of his months has been apportioned.

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

Does not He judge murders?

One shall die in the strength of his simplicity,

And wholly at ease and prosperous.

His innards are full of stiff fat,

And the marrow of his bones is dissipated.

Another dies under bitterness of soul,

Not eating any good thing.

They lie down together in the earth,

And decay covers them.

Thus I know you press me recklessly.

You will say, ‘where is the house of the ruler?

Where is the shelter of the dwelling place of the ungodly?’

Ask those who travel the road,

And do not overlook their signs.

For the evil man makes light of the day of destruction,

But they shall be led away in the day of His wrath.

Who will tell him his way to his face?

Who will recompense him for what he has done?

Yet he is brought to the grave,

And a vigil is kept over the coffin.

The pebbles of the valley have been sweet to him.

Every man shall depart after him,

As countless have departed before him.

How then can you comfort me with empty words,

Since I have no rest from you?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 14:2-42 (Bel and the Serpent 2-42)

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Daniel was a confidant of the king and was honored above all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol whose name was Bel, and every day they spent on it twelve bushels of fine flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of wine. The king adored it and went every day to worship it; but Daniel worshiped his own God. So the king asked him, “Why do you not worship Bel?” Daniel answered, “Because I do not worship idols made with hands, but only the living God who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all flesh.” The king said to him, “Do you not think Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?” Daniel smiled and said, “Do not be deceived, O king, for it is but clay inside and bronze outside, and it has never eaten or drunk anything.”

Very angry, the king summoned his priests and said to them, “If you do not tell me who it is that consumes these provisions, you shall die. But if you can prove Bel consumes them, then Daniel shall die, because he blasphemed against Bel.” So Daniel said to the king, “Let it be according to your word.”

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple. Then the priests of Bel said, “Look, we will step outside. You, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, then shut the door and seal it with your signet. If you do not find Bel has eaten it all when you come tomorrow, we will suffer death—or else Daniel shall die, who speaks lies against us.” They were unconcerned, for under the table they had made a secret entrance through which they always came in to consume the provisions.

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food for Bel. And Daniel ordered his servants to bring in ashes, which they sprinkled throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door, sealed it with the king’s signet, and departed. During the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king rose early the next morning, and Daniel with him. Then the king said, “Are the seals intact, Daniel?” Daniel answered, “They are intact, O king.” As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table and cried out in a loud voice, “Great are you, O Bel, and with you there is no deceit at all.” Then Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. He said, “Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are.” The king replied, “I see the footprints of men, women, and children.” With great anger, the king seized the priests and their wives and children, and they showed him the hidden doors where they came in and consumed such things as were upon the table. Therefore the king put them to death and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

There was also a large serpent the people of Babylon worshiped. So the king said to Daniel, “Will you also say this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, he eats, and he drinks—you cannot say he is no living god. Therefore worship him.” Daniel replied, “I will worship the Lord my God; for He is the living God. But with your permission, O king, I shall slay this serpent without sword or staff.” The king said, “I will give my permission.” Then Daniel took pitch, tar, and hair; these he boiled together and made cakes, and put them in the mouth of the serpent. The serpent ate them and burst open. Then Daniel said, “Behold the things you have been worshiping.”

Now when the people of Babylon heard what had been done, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, “The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death.” Going to the king, they said, “Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house.” Now when the king saw they were pressing him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They threw Daniel into the lions’ den, where he was left for six days. Now there were seven lions in the den, and they had to give them two carcasses every day and two sheep. But these things were not given to them now, so they might devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the fields to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said unto Habakkuk, “Go, carry the dinner you have into Babylon to Daniel, who is in the lions’ den.” Habakkuk said, “O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, nor do I know the den.” Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. Habakkuk cried out, saying, “O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal God has sent you.” Daniel said, “You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You.” So Daniel arose and ate; and the angel of the Lord immediately set Habakkuk down in his own place once more.

After this, on the seventh day the king went to the lions’ den to mourn for Daniel, and he came to the pit and looked inside—and there sat Daniel. The king cried out with a loud voice, “Great are You, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides You.” Then he drew him out of the den, and cast in those who had plotted Daniel’s destruction; and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:7-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-16

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24a

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. \*[He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.]\*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

\* [] lacking in Kitchener

### Saturday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 4:4-9

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:13-4:6

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This ‘wisdom’ is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The spirit which dwells in us longs to envy”? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:24-25:12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

A few days later, Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and granted him a hearing concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became alarmed and said, “Go your way for this time. When it is convenient for me, I will summon you [again].” Meanwhile, he also hoped that Paul would offer him money for his release. For this reason too, he sent for him more often and discussed with him. But after two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. Then the high priest and the leaders of the Jewish people presented to him an [accusatory] report against Paul. They begged him and asked for his support against Paul, asking that he would transfer the prisoner [back] to Jerusalem, plotting to kill him on the way. However, Festus replied that Paul would be kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself would leave shortly. He said, “Those who have authority among you should go down with me! And if the man has done anything wrong, let them accuse him.”

Having stayed among them more than ten days, Festus returned to Caesarea. The following day, he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. When Paul arrived, the Jews who had traveled from Jerusalem stood around him and hurled against him many grave accusations which they could not prove. Paul then said in his [own] defense, “I have not sinned in any way, against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against Caesar!”

Then, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Festus asked Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem in order to be judged by me there concerning these matters?”

But Paul replied, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. Now, if I have done wrong and committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die! But if none of those things they accuse me of are true, then no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

At this, and after conferring with his advisers, Festus answered, “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:10-24

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, even with unfading love. Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-17

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit.” But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:13-26:1a

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

A few days later, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and greeted Festus. Since Agrippa was spending some time there, Festus presented Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a certain man who was left as a prisoner by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the presbyters of the Jews presented an [accusatory] report about this man, asking me to condemn him. I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to condemn anyone to death before the accused has met his accusers face to face and has had opportunity to make his defense in the case against him. Then, since they had come together here, I did not delay. On the following day, I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in. When the accusers stood up, they did not bring any of the charges I was expecting. Instead, they had some dispute against him dealing with their own religion, and about a certain Jesus who was dead, and who Paul affirms to be alive. I was puzzled as how to investigate such things and asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. But Paul appealed that his case be reserved for the decision of the emperor, and so I gave orders that he be detained until I could send him to Caesar.”

Agrippa said to Festus, “I too would like to hear this man!”

“Tomorrow,” Festus replied, “you shall hear him.”

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy ofdeath, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 3:5-20a

From the book of the Proverbs of Solmon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Trust in God with all your heart,

And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,

That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

And nothing evil will withstand her;

She is well known to all who come near her,

And no honor is worthy of her.

For length of days and years of life are in her right hand,

And in her left hand are riches and glory;

Righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

And she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

And all her paths are in peace.

She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 37:33-38:6

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way he came, by the same shall he return,’ says the Lord. ‘I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ ”

Then the Angel of the Lord went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, they discovered all the dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, then escaped into the land of Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ ” Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and did what is pleasing in Your sight.” So Hezekiah wept loudly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I heard your prayer, I see your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will protect this city.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 22:1-30

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

For what concern is it to the Lord

If you were blameless in your works?

Or what profit is it to Him to make plain your ways?

Will He argue with you while you plead your case?

Will He enter into judgment with you?

Is not your vice plentiful,

And are not your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges from your brethren for no reason

And taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

But have even withheld a morsel from the hungry.

You have also admired the personality of some

And have transplanted those already settled on earth.

You have sent widows away empty

And have mistreated orphans.

Therefore snares are all around you,

And a serious war has troubled you.

The light has turned to darkness for you,

And water has covered you as you fell asleep.

“Does not He who dwells on high take notice of all?

Does He not humble those who move about with insolence?

But you say, ‘What does the Mighty One know?

Will He judge down into the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding place, so He cannot see

As He travels through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep to the old path

Which wrongdoers have trod,

Who were seized before their time

And whose foundations were swept away by a flood;

Who said, ‘What will the Lord do to us?’

Or, ‘What will the Almighty bring upon us?’

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

But the counsel of the ungodly is far from Him.

“The righteous have seen it and laughed,

And the innocent mocked them.

Surely their substance has perished,

And fire will consume what is left.

Eliphaz Exhorts Job to Be Strong

“Be strong, therefore. If you endure,

Then your fruit shall be in good things.

Receive utterance from His mouth

And lay up His words in your heart.

If you return and humble yourself before the Lord,

You have caused wrongdoing to be far from your dwelling.

Then you will lay up treasure for yourself

Like a mound on a rock,

And you shall be like the gold of Ophir

On a rock in the brooks.

So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

And He will restore you as pure as silver purged by fire.

For then you will speak freely before the Lord,

Looking up cheerfully to heaven.

When you pray to Him, He will hear you,

And He will allow you to pay your vows.

He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,

And there shall be light on your paths.

You will say, ‘He behaved arrogantly, but he humbled himself,

And He will save him who bows down with his eyes.’

He will deliver the innocent,

And you will save yourself in the purity of your hands.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:1-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look after you own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And so, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, according to his good purpose. Do all things without murmurings and disputes in order to become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you are seen as lights in the world. Uphold the word of life, so that I may have a reason to glory in the day of Christ: that I did not run or labor in vain.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:10-18

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:25-35

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Numbers 10:34-11:35

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass that when they broke camp with the ark, Moses said, “Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let all who hate You flee.”And when the ark rested, he said, “Return, O Lord, to the many thousands in Israel!” The cloud also overshadowed them by day when they broke camp.

Now the people were grumbling evilly before the Lord, and the Lord heard them and was provoked to anger. So the fire of the Lord burned among them and utterly destroyed part of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord; and the fire was quenched. So he called the name of the place Burning, because fire from the Lord burned among them.

Now the mixed multitude among them hungered exceedingly; and sitting down, the children of Israel were also weeping, and said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes except this manna.” Now the manna is like coriander seed, and its form is like the form of ice pellets. The people would go about and gather it, and grind it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, then cook it in pots, and make cakes of it; and its flavor was like the taste of a pastry prepared with oil and honey. And when the dew descended on the camp in the night, the manna descended upon it.

Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their tribes, everyone at his door; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You maltreated Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the wrath of this people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ I am not able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, kill me here and now—if I find mercy in Your sight—and do not let me see my maltreatment.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone. Then you shall say to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept before the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month you shall eat, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

Then Moses said, “The people I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You are saying, ‘I will give them meat, so they may eat for a whole month.’ Shall sheep and oxen be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Is the Lord’s hand unable to provide for them? Now you shall know whether or not My word will overtake you.” So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord descended in the cloud and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Lord Moses, forbid them.” Then Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.” So Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Now a wind went out from the Lord and brought birds from the sea that migrate together with quail, and cast them upon the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and about a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Then the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the birds (he who gathered least gathered ten cors); and they spread the meat out to dry for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the Lord’s anger was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place Graves of Lust, because there they buried the people who lusted. Then the people broke camp to go to Hazeroth, and they camped at Hazeroth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 3:21-4:8

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God by wisdom founded the earth

And prepared the heavens with discernment.

With perception the depths were broken up,

And the clouds flowed with dew.

My son, do not be careless,

But keep my counsel and thinking,

That your soul may live,

And grace may be around your neck.

And there will be healing for your flesh

And care for your bones,

That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways,

And your foot may not stumble.

For if you sit down, you will be without fear,

And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.

And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you,

Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you;

For the Lord will be over all your ways,

And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken.

Do not withhold doing good to the needy,

When you may give a helping hand;

Do not say, when you are able to do good,

“Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something”;

For you do not know what the next day will bring forth.

Do not devise evil things against your friend

Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.

Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain,

Lest he do you some harm.

Do not incur the reproach of evil men,

Neither seek their ways;

For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord,

And he does not sit among the righteous.

The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly,

But He blesses the dwellings of the righteous.

The Lord opposes the arrogant,

But He gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But the ungodly exalt dishonor.

1Hear, my children, the instruction of your father,

And pay attention, that you might know his thinking;

For I offer a good gift to you;

Do not forsake my law.

For I was a son, and I was obedient to my father,

And beloved in the presence of my mother,

Who taught me, saying,

“Let our word become firmly planted in your heart;

Guard our commandments; do not forget them;

Neither disregard the word of my mouth,

Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you;

Love it, and it will keep you.

Secure it, and it shall exalt you;

Honor it, that it may embrace you,

And give your head a crown of graces,

And cover you with a crown of delight.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all man’s glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 25:1-26:14

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“What beginning or fear is His—

He who makes all things in the highest heaven?

For may no one imagine there is a respite for pirates.

Upon whom will there not be an ambush from Him?

How shall a mortal be righteous before the Lord?

Or how may he who is born of a woman purify himself?

If He orders the moon, then it does not shine,

And the stars are not pure in His sight.

But alas! Man is putrid, and the son of man a worm.”

But Job answered and said:

“To whom are you attached,

Or whom are you going to help?

Is it not He who has great strength

And whose arm is powerful?

To whom have you given counsel?

Is it not to Him who has all wisdom?

Or whom will you follow?

Is it not One who has the greatest power?

To whom have you spoken words?

Whose breath came forth from you?

“Will giants be born under the water

And those inhabiting them?

Hades is naked before Him,

And destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind upon nothing;

He hangs the earth on nothing.

He binds up the water in His clouds,

Yet the cloud is not broken under it.

He grasps the face of His throne

And spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the water by an ordinance

Until the end of light and darkness.

The pillars of heaven were spread all over

And stood amazed at His rebuke.

He checked the sea with His power,

And by His understanding He wounded the sea-monster.

For the bars of heaven fear Him,

Because He put to death the rebellious dragon by a command.

Behold, these are parts of His way,

And we will hearken to the least of His words.

But who knows when He will bring about the strength of His thunder?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:22-26a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But you know how he has proved himself; as a child serves a father, he has served with me to spread the Good News. Therefore, I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how things are going with me [here]. As it is, I trust in the Lord that I too will be able to come shortly. But I deemed it necessary to send you Epaphroditus who is my brother, fellow-worker, fellow-soldier, and your apostle and the servant of my need. He longed for you all.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:2-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:10-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 8:16-9:35

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me in the desert. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send the dog-fly on you and your servants, and on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with the dog-fly, and also the ground on which they stand. Now on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no dog-fly be there, that you may know I am the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this shall be a sign in the land.” ’ ” So the Lord did thus; and the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt, and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. We will go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us.” Pharaoh then said, “I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord.” Then Moses said, “Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord.”

So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Thus the Lord did as Moses said and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people. Not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go so they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the fields—on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep—a very severe pestilence. Then I will make a clear distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ”

Then God appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the cattle of the Egyptians died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel, not one died. Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one among the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh; and let it become dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” So they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven; and they caused boils to break out in sores on man and beast. Now the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers and in all the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said to Moses.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, so they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues into your very heart, and on your servants and your people, that you may know there is not another such as I in all the earth. For now I will stretch forth My hand and smite you and kill your people, and you will be cut off from the earth. But for this very reason were you preserved, that I might display in you My strength, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. As yet, you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time, I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore, hurry now and gather your cattle and all you have in the fields, for the hail shall come down on every man and animal found in the fields; and whatever is not brought home shall die.” ’ ” Thus he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his cattle into the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and cattle in the field.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are ungodly. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer.” So Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord’s. But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord.” Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. Thus when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord said to Moses.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 41:4-14

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who worked and performed these things? He called righteousness, He who calls it from generations of old. I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One will say, ‘The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer and forges at the same time.’ Sometimes one will say, ‘It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved.’

“But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of Abraham, whom I loved. I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you, ‘You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand.’ Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as though they did not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. You shall seek but not find the men who rage against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they did not exist. For I am your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not.’ O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel,” says God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 4:9-21

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Proclaim these things among the nations: “Prepare for war; arouse the warriors; draw near and go up, all you men of war. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ Assemble together and join in, all you nations round about. And in that place, gather yourselves together; let the gentle be warlike. Let all the nations rouse themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit to judge all the nations round about.

“Bring out the sickles, for the harvest is ripe. Come in and tread the grapes, for the winepress is full, the wine vats overflow; for their wickedness is multiplied. The news resounded in the valley of judgment, for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of judgment. The sun and moon shall become dark, and the stars shall withdraw their light. And the Lord shall cry out from Zion, and He shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and earth will quake, but the Lord shall keep His people safe and shall strengthen the sons of Israel. So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, the one dwelling in Zion on My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be a holy city, and no more will strangers pass through her.

“And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip sweetness, and milk shall flow from the hills, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with water. And a fountain shall flow out from the house of the Lord, and it will supply water to the Valley of Acacias. Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a wilderness because of the wrongdoings against the people of Judah, because of the innocent blood shed in their land. But Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem unto generations of generations. And I shall avenge their blood and shall not let it go unpunished. The Lord shall dwell in Zion.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 28:12-28

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“But where can wisdom be found?

What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

The deep said, ‘It is not in me’;

And the sea said, ‘It is not with me.’

One shall not give massive piles of gold instead of it,

Nor can silver be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with the gold of Ophir,

With the precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal will equal it,

Nor can it be exchanged for vessels of gold.

No mention shall be made of coral and quartz,

But you must hold up wisdom above the most valued things.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,

Nor can it be compared with pure gold.

“From where then is wisdom found,

And what is the place of understanding?

It has been hidden from every man

And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Destruction and Death said,

‘We have heard about its fame.’

God has well established its way,

And He knows its place.

For He watches over the whole earth under heaven,

Knowing the things in the earth, all He has made—

The weight of the winds and the measures of the water.

When He made them, He numbered them

And made a way for the claps of thunder.

Then He saw wisdom and declared it;

He prepared it and traced it out.

He said to man, ‘behold, the fear of God is wisdom,

And to abstain from evils is understanding.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:9-18

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear me, my son, and receive my words,

And the years of your life shall be increased,

That many ways of life may be yours;

For I teach you the ways of wisdom

And set you on upright paths.

For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined;

And if you run, you will not grow weary.

Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go,

But guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

But turn aside from them and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;

Their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest;

For they feed on the bread of ungodliness,

And they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

They go before and give light until full daylight.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

They do not know how they stumble.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 1:1-2:21 or 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21\*

From the book of the First Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. He had two wives. The name of onewas Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. To Hannah, he gave one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah.” And she said to him, “Here I am, lord.” Then he said to her, “What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?” So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, “O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

And as she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. And as she spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. The servant of God said to her, “For how long will you remain drunk? Cast off your wine, and go out from the face of the Lord!” But Hannah answered and said, “No lord, I am a woman for whom this day is difficult. I drank neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. Do not consider your handmaiden a daughter of pestilence just because of the multitude of my idle words I have put forth.” Then Eli answered and said to her, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you the petition you asked of Him.” And she said, “Your handmaiden has found favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped the Lord and went on their way back to Elkanah’s house at Ramathaim. And he knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. She conceived, and it came to be at the appointed time she bore a son, and she called him Samuel and said, “Because I asked for him from the Lord God Sabaoth.”

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vow, and the tenth portion of all his land. But Hannah did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, “I will not go up until our boy is weaned from me. Then he will appear in the presence of the Lord and stay there continually.” And Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord confirm as true what was coming out of your mouth.” So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she weaned him.

And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf three years old, loaves of bread, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She came to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was with them. And they came before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering he made yearly to the Lord. He brought the child and slaughtered the calf. Then Hannah, the mother of the young boy, went to Eli. And she said to him, “Lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who was standing near you while I prayed to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord gave me my request which I asked from Him. And I lend him to the Lord all the days which he lives to be fruitful to the Lord.”

And she said:

“My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.”

They left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim, and the child performed the services before the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of scoundrels, not knowing the Lord. And the custom of the priest for the people who sacrificed was for the servant of the priest to come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. He would then thrust it into either the large kettle, or the brazen vessel, or the pot; and everything the meat-hook brought up, the priest would take for himself. So in Shiloh, they did this to all the Israelites who came there to sacrifice to the Lord. Also, before they burned the fat, the servant came and said to the man who sacrificed, “Give some meat to be roasted to the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat from out of the cauldron.”

And if the man sacrificing said to him, “First he should burn the fat as fitting, then you may take as much as your soul desires.” But he would say, “No, you shall give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force.” Therefore the sin of the servants is exceedingly great before the Lord, for they nullified the sacrifice of the Lord.

As a young boy, Samuel was serving before the Lord wearing a linen ephod of a servant. Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him once a year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan you made to the Lord.” Then the man went to his place. And the Lord watched over Hannah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew and matured before the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:14-5:5

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations.” This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become “the father of many nations”, according to what had been spoken, “And so will your seed be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was “credited to him for righteousness.” Now, it was not written that “it was accounted to him” for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered up for our sins, and was raised for our justification.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:12-19

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:12-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 42:5-16

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the tops of the mountains. They will give glory to God and declare His virtues in the coastlands. The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal, and cry out against His enemies with strength. I held My peace, and I will not always be silent and restrain Myself. Now I will be steadfast, like a woman in labor. I shall amaze and dry up together. I will make the rivers into coastlands and dry up marsh-meadows. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know, and will cause them to tread paths they have not known. I will turn darkness into light for them, and make crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:19-28

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, give heed to my word

And incline your ear to my words,

That your fountains may not fail you;

Guard them in your heart;

For they are life to those who find them

And healing for all their flesh.

Keep your heart with all watchfulness,

For from these words are the issues of life.

Put away from yourself a crooked mouth

And remove unrighteous lips far from you.

Let your eyes look straight forward,

And let your eyelids assent to righteous things.

Make straight paths for your feet

And direct your ways aright.

Do not turn aside to the right or to the left,

But turn your foot from an evil way;

\*[For God knows the ways on the right hand,

But those on the left are perverse;

And He shall make your paths straight

And guide your steps in peace.]\*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] lacking in Oattawa and Southern United States. Found in Kitchener.

##### Job 29:2-20

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Who may put me in months past,

As in the days when God protected me—

As when His lamp shone upon my head,

And by His light I walked in the darkness;

As when I steadfastly pursued my ways,

When God’s visitation was over my house;

As when I lived in abundance,

And my children were around me;

As when my roads spread out with butter,

And the mountains flowed with milk for me;

“As when I went early in the city,

And took my seat in the open square;

The young men saw me and hid,

And all the old men stood up.

The great men refrained from talking

And put their finger to their mouth.

Those who heard me blessed me,

And their tongue stuck to their throat.

The ear heard and blessed me,

And the eye saw me and turned aside.

For I saved the poor from the hand of the oppressor

And helped the orphan who had no helper.

The blessing of the perishing man came upon me,

And the widow’s mouth blessed me.

I put on righteousness

And clothed myself with judgment like a robe.

I was the eye of the blind and the foot of the lame.

I was the father of the weak,

And I searched out the cause I did not know.

I broke the molars of the wrongdoers

And plucked the spoil from the midst of their teeth.

“Then I said, ‘My age shall continue as the stem of a palm tree,

And I shall live a long while.’

My root was spread out to the waters,

And the dew would settle on my harvest.

My glory was fresh within me,

And my bow prospered in its hand.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 3:1-20 or 1 Samuel 3:1-20\*

From the book of the First Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. So on that day, while Eli was lying down in his place, his eyes were starting to grow heavy, barely able to see. Before the lamp of God went out, and while Samuel was asleep in the temple where the ark of God was, the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel answered, “Here I am!” So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And Eli said, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.” So he returned and lay down. Then the Lord called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” So Samuel went to Eli a second time, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Eli answered, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.”

Now this all happened before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. And he said, “Return, lie down, my child; and if He calls you, you must say, ‘O Lord, speak, for Your servant hears.’ ” So Samuel went and fell asleep in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold! I shall execute My words in Israel, and for everyone hearing them, both ears will tingle. In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything I spoke concerning his house. This I will begin, and I will finish it. For I announced to him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and he did not correct them in any way. I swore to the house of Eli that the iniquity of the house of Eli shall never be atoned for with incense or with sacrifice.”

So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord’s house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called to Samuel, “Samuel, my child!” And he answered, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you.” Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him.”

So Samuel grew and matured, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak [to you] as to people that have common sense. Judge what I say: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is not it a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body because we all partake of the one loaf of bread. Consider Israel according to the flesh: is it not true that those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

What am I saying then: that something sacrificed to idols is meaningful, or that an idol is anything? [No], but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and also from the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons as well. Or do we [want to] provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are profitable. “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things build up. We should not seek our own good, but our neighbor’s good.

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliever (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your own, but the other’s conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else’s conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:2c-8

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:5-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land you are to inherit, you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Indeed are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of Canaan, the area that lies to the west near Gilgal, beside the lofty oak? For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to inherit the land the Lord your God is giving you; and you will inherit it all your days and dwell in it. Therefore, you shall be careful to do all the ordinances and judgments I set before you today.

“These are the ordinances and judgments you shall be careful to observe in the land the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to inherit, all the days you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places the nations you will inherit served their gods: on the high mountains, on the hills, and under the tree of the grove. So you shall destroy their altars, break their pillars, cut down their groves, burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and destroy their name from that place. You shall not do thus with the Lord your God. But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called on there; and you shall go and seek Him there. There you shall bring your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, firstfruits, prayers, voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your oxen and sheep. There you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God blessed you.

“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes— for as yet, you have not come to the rest and the inheritance the Lord your God gives you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, and you dwell in safety, then there will be the place the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all I command you today: your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the first fruits of your hands, and all your gifts and all your choice gifts you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself, do not offer your whole burnt offerings in every place you see; but in the place the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes; there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all I command you today.

“However, according to your every desire, you may slaughter and eat meat, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you in each city; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You may not eat the tithe in your cities: of your grain, wine, or olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen or sheep, of any of your offerings you vow, of your agreements, or of the firstfruits of your hands. But you must eat them before the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses, you and your son and daughter, your male and female servant, and the resident alien in your cities; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all to which you put your hand. Take heed to yourself, do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

“Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your oxen and sheep the Lord gave you in the manner I commanded you, and may eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life; the life will not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. Only the holy things you have and your vowed offerings you shall take and go to the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall offer your whole burnt offerings; you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall eat the meat.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kings 17:2-24 or 1 Kings 17:2-24

From the Third book of Kings.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there.” So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink.” She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But the woman said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” But Elijah said to her, “Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ” So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.

Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son.” But Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, “Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son.” Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him.” So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, “Behold, your son lives.” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 5:1-12

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, hold fast to wisdom

And incline your ear to my words,

That you may guard good thinking;

And I command you with the perception of my lips.

Do not join yourself to a base woman,

For honey drips from the lips of a prostitute,

Or for a season she is pleasing to your taste;

Afterward, however, you will find her more bitter than gall

And sharper than a two-edged sword.

For feet lacking discernment lead those using her down into Hades with death;

Her footsteps are not planted,

For she does not travel the ways of life;

And her paths are slippery and not easy to discern.

Now therefore, my son, hear me,

And do not make my words invalid;

Make your way distant from her

And do not come near the doors of her house,

That you may not give away your life to others

And your existence to the merciless;

That strangers may not be filled with your strength,

And your labors go into the houses of strangers,

And you should feel regret at the last,

When the flesh of your body is consumed;

And you will say, “How I hated instruction

And turned my heart away from reproofs.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:1-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And now, thus says the Lord God who made you, O Jacob, and who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I redeemed you. I called you by your name, for you are Mine. If you pass through water, I am with you; and the rivers shall not overflow you. If you pass through fire, you shall not be burned up, nor shall the flame consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, who saves you. I made Egypt and Ethiopia your ransom and gave Seba on your behalf. Since you were precious in My sight, you became glorious, and I love you. I will give many men for you and rulers to lead you. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Bring them,’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back. Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone called by My name.’ For in my glory I prepared him, and formed and made him. I brought forth the blind people, and their eyes are alike blind, and their ears deaf.” All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 30:9-32:5

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“But now I am their lyre,

And they have me as their byword.

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

For He has opened His quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off restraint in my presence.

They rose up against me by the right hands of their offspring;

And they stretched out their foot

And directed against me their paths of destruction.

My paths are ruined, for they stripped off my garment.

He shot me down with His arrows

And used me as He wished.

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains are turned upon me.

My hope is gone like the wind

And my salvation like a cloud.

“Even now my soul will be poured forth upon me,

And the days of pains seize me.

By night my bones are set on fire,

And my sinews are broken up.

With great force He took hold of my garment,

And like the collar of my tunic He surrounded me.

You regarded me as clay in the earth,

And my portion is with ashes.

“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me.

They stood and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy

And scourged me with a strong hand.

You appointed pains for me

And cast me away from salvation.

For I know death will destroy me,

For the earth is the house for every mortal.

“Would that I might lay hands on myself,

Or at least ask another, and he would do it for me.

Yet I wept over every man without strength

And groaned when I saw a man in distress.

But while I held firmly to good things,

Days of evils happened to me instead.

My stomach churns and will not be quiet,

And days of poverty have come upon me.

I go groaning without restraint;

I stand up and cry out in the church.

I have become a brother of sirens

And a companion of sparrows.

My skin has been greatly darkened,

And my bones are burned by the heat.

My lyre turned into mourning

And my song into my weeping.

“I have made a covenant with my eyes,

And I will not think upon a virgin.

What has God apportioned from above,

And what is the inheritance of the Mighty One from on high?

Is not destruction for the wrongdoer,

And alienation for those who do lawlessness?

Will He not see my way and count all my steps?

“If I have walked with scorners,

Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

May He weigh me therefore with a just scale,

For He knows my integrity.

If my foot has turned from the way,

Or if my heart has followed after my eyes,

Or if gifts have touched my hands,

Then may I sow and others eat.

Yes, may I be uprooted on the earth.

“If my heart has followed after another man’s wife,

Or if I have laid wait at her door,

Then also may my wife please another,

And may my children be humiliated.

For the rage of anger is uncontrollable

In defiling another man’s wife.

For it is a fire burning on every side,

And whomever it comes upon, it destroys at the roots.

If I have despised the judgment of my servant or handmaid

When they judged me,

What then will I do when the Lord brings me to trial and visits me?

How shall I answer Him?

Did not He who made me in the womb make them?

So we were fashioned in the same womb.

“But the weak did not miss whatever they happened to need,

And I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.

If I ate my morsel by myself

And did not share it with the orphan

(But from my youth I nourished them as a father,

And from my mother’s womb I guided the widow);

If I have neglected the naked as he was perishing

And did not clothe him;

If the weak did not bless me,

And if their shoulders were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs;

If I raised my hand against the orphan,

Trusting that my strength was far superior to his,

Then let my shoulder fall from my collarbone;

Let my arm be torn from its socket.

For the fear of the Lord seized me,

And I cannot endure His burden.

If I have made gold my strength

Or trusted the precious stone,

If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,

And if I, too, laid my hand on countless treasures

(Or do I not see the shining sun eclipsed and the moon waning?

For this does not depend upon them);

If my heart has been secretly deceived,

And if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it,

Then may this also be reckoned to me

As the greatest lawlessness;

For I have lied against the Lord most high.

“If I, too, was glad at the fall of my enemies,

And my heart said, ‘Good! Well done!’

Then may my ear hear my curse,

And may I be a byword among my people in my affliction.

If my handmaids have often said,

‘Who may give us his meat to be satisfied?’

(But I was very kind.

For the stranger did not spend the night outside;

And my door was opened to everyone who came);

If I sinned involuntarily, then covered my sin,

(For I did not stand in awe of great multitude,

So as not to confess before them);

And if I permitted a poor man to go out of my door

With an empty bosom

(Who may listen to me?);

And if I had not feared the hand of the Lord,

And as to the document I had against someone,

I would place it as a crown on my shoulders and read it,

And if I did not tear it up and return it,

Having taken nothing from the debtor;

“If at any time the land groaned against me

And its furrows wept together,

If I have eaten its strength alone without paying,

Or if I also grieved the soul of the owner of the land

By casting him out,

Then may the nettle come to me instead of wheat,

And bramble instead of barley.”

Thus Job ceased speaking.

Job’s three friends also ceased answering him, for he was righteous before them. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, of the country of Ausitis, became furious; and he was very angry with Job, because he declared himself to be righteous before the Lord. He was also very angry with Job’s three friends, because they found no answer to Job, and yet affirmed he was an ungodly man. Now because they were years older than he, Elihu waited to speak to Job. So when Elihu saw there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:5b-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord, do not faint when you are reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens, and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of {our} spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. Be careful, for fear that anyone might fall short of the grace of God or that any root of bitterness should trouble you; many are poisoned by this. Be careful that there is no sexually immoral or profane person [among you], like Esau who sold his birthright for a meal.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:15-5:5

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:3

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!” Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 5:16-6:2

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I say this: walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. What the [fallen] flesh desires is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh! Yes, these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now, the works of the flesh are obvious. They are: adultery, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, the practice of magic, hatred, strife, selfish ambitions, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, excess drinking, orgies, and similar things. About these, I warn you, as I have done in the past: those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law! Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit! Let us not become arrogant, challenging and envying one another.

Brethren, even if someone is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. But watch out for yourself in order not to be tempted. Bear each others’ burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-11

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1b-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

As for myself, I certainly thought that it was my duty to oppose the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. I also did this in Jerusalem: having received authority from the chief priests, I had many of the saints imprisoned, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Often I went to all the synagogues to have them punished and I tried to make them blaspheme. Filled with rage against them, I even persecuted them in foreign cities.

Then, as I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission from the chief priests, at noon, O king, I saw on the way a light from the sky. It was brighter than the sun and shone around me and those who were traveling with me. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads!’

I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

He replied, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting! But arise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness both of what you have seen and of what I will reveal to you. I will rescue you from the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and receive remission of sins as well as an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thesselonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:1-18

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:19-27:8

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. I first proclaimed this to the people of Damascus, Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea. Then, I also proclaimed it to the Gentiles; that they should repent, turn to God, and do works worthy of [their] repentance. For this reason, the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. Yet, having obtained God’s help, I stand to this day and bear witness to small and great alike. I only say what the prophets and Moses said would happen, how the Christ must suffer, and how, by the resurrection of the dead, he would be first to proclaim light both to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles.”

As Paul was presenting this defense, Festus exclaimed with a loud voice, “Paul, you are crazy! Your great learning is driving you insane!”

But Paul replied, “I am not crazy, Most Excellent Festus, but boldly declare words of truth and good sense. Indeed, the king is aware of these things and I will also speak freely to him. For I am convinced that none of this is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe!”

Agrippa then said to Paul, “With a little persuasion, are you trying to make me a Christian?”

Paul answered, “I pray to God, that whether with little or with much, not only you but also all that hear me today might become as I am, except for these chains.”

The king rose up with the governor, along with Bernice and those who sat with them. After retiring, they talked together and agreed, “This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment.” Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for. Putting to sea from there, we sailed under [the shelter of] Cyprus because the winds were contrary. After sailing across the open sea off [the coasts of] Cilicia and Pamphylia, we arrived in Myra, a city of Lycia. There, the centurion found a ship sailing from Alexandria to Italy, and he put us on board. After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived with difficulty near Cnidus. The wind did not allow us to go further [on course], we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone. We sailed along the coast and arrived at a place called ‘Fair Havens’, near the city of Lasea.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You shall proclaim wisdom

That discernment may obey you;

For she is on the lofty summit

And stands in the midst of the paths.

For she sits beside the gates of princes

And sings at the entrances,

“You, O men, I exhort,

And I utter my voice to the sons of men;

Understand astuteness, O simple ones,

And put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones.

Obey me, for I speak sacred things,

And from my lips I will bring forth things that are true.

For my mouth shall speak the truth,

But false lips are an abomination before me.

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness;

There is nothing in them crooked or twisted.

All things are evident to those who understand

And true to those who find knowledge.

Lay hold of instruction and not silver,

And knowledge rather than tested gold,

And choose perception rather than pure gold.

For wisdom is better than precious stones,

And every costly thing is not worthy of her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:10-28

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God, “and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God. “Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?”

Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. I am the Lord God, your Holy One, who made known your King, O Israel.” Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:6-16

From the book of the Job the Rigtheous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

“I am young in years, and you are the elder;

Therefore I was silent

And dared not declare my knowledge to you.

I said, ‘It is not time that speaks,

Though in many years, men know wisdom.’

But there is a spirit in mortals,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches them.

The long-lived are not always wise,

Nor do the old men always know judgment.

“Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me,

I also will declare what I know.’

Pay close attention to my words,

For I will speak in your hearing, while you examine my words,

And until I shall understand you.

So behold, not one of you answered Job in argument;

Lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom added to the Lord.’

But you permitted a man to speak such words.

“They were dismayed and answered no more;

They made their words obsolete.

I waited, for they did not speak.

Because they stood still, they did not answer.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As for other matters, brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus: as you received from us how you should live to please God, may you make progress in this ever more! For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. This is the will of God: your sanctification, and that you abstain from sexual immorality. Each one of you should know how to practice self-control of the body in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passions, as Gentiles who do not know God. No one should take advantage of or wrong a brother [or sister] in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we warned you and testified to you. Certainly, God did not call us for impurity but to sanctification! Therefore, whoever rejects this does not reject a human [command], but God, who has also given his Holy Spirit to you.

But concerning brotherly love, you have no need that one should write to you since you have learned from God how to love one another, and this is what you do toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to overflow even more! Make it your goal to lead a quiet life, to take care of your own affairs, and to work with your own hands, even as we instructed you. Thus, you will live properly in the sight of those who are outside and you will lack nothing.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-12

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:9-18b

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:12-21

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I, wisdom, dwell with counsel,

And I call upon knowledge and understanding.

The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness,

And both rudeness and arrogance, and the ways of wicked men;

And I hate the perverted ways of evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

Discernment is mine, and strength is mine;

By me, kings reign,

And princes write of righteousness;

By me, noblemen become great,

And by me, monarchs have power in the land.

I love those who love me,

And those who seek me shall find me.

Riches and glory belong to me,

And abundant possessions, and righteousness;

It is better to enjoy my fruits than gold and precious stones,

And my fruits are better than choice silver.

I walk in the ways of righteousness,

And I am conversant with the paths of judgment;

That I may distribute substance to those who love me,

And may fill their treasuries with good things.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:1-8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God. Who is just as I am? Then let him stand, let him call and prepare for Me that from which I made man forever, and let them declare to you the things that are coming before they come. Do not hide yourselves. Have you not paid attention from the beginning, and have I not declared it to you? You are My witnesses, if there is a God besides Me? Indeed there was none.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:17-33:33

From the book of Job the Rigthteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Elihu continued and said:

‘Again I will speak, for I am full of words;

The spirit within my stomach is killing me.

Indeed, my stomach is like a wineskin of sweet new wine,

Bound up and ready to burst,

Or like the blowpipe of a coppersmith, ready to bellow.

I will speak, that I may find relief in opening my lips.

I will not feel shame before any man,

Neither indeed will I feel shame before any mortal.

For I do not know how to flatter persons,

Or else the moths would eat me.

“Nevertheless, hear my words, Job,

And pay close attention to what I say.

For behold, I have opened my mouth

And my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart shall be found pure;

And the understanding of my lips will think pure thoughts.

The divine Spirit has made me,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches me.

Give me an answer to these things if you can.

Endure and stand firm against me, and I against you.

You and I were formed out of the clay;

Thus, we have been formed out of the same substance.

My fear will not distract you,

Neither shall my hand be heavy on you.

“However you said in my hearing

(I heard the voice of your words),

For you say, ‘I am pure, for I have not sinned.

I am blameless, for I have not acted lawlessly.

Yet He has found a charge against me;

He has counted me as His enemy.

He has put my feet in the stocks,

And He watches all my paths.’

“For how can you say,

‘I am righteous, yet He has not listened to me’?

For He that is above mortals is eternal.

But you say, ‘Why has He not heard every word of my cause?’

For when the Lord speaks once,

Or in another time in a dream,

Or in a meditation of the night

(As when dreadful fear falls upon men

While slumbering on their bed),

Then He unveils the hearts of men

And frightens them with such fearful visions

So as to turn man from his wrongdoing;

Thus He delivers his body from a fall.

He keeps back his soul from death

And does not allow him to fall in war.

“Again He also chastens him with sickness on his bed,

And the multitude of his bones grow numb.

He is not able to receive any food,

Though his soul may long for it,

Until his flesh wastes away

And he shows his bones bare.

His soul also draws near to death

And his life to Hades.

“If there are a thousand death-bringing messengers,

None of them shall wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn to the Lord,

And declares to man his fault, and shows his folly,

He will support him, that he might not fall into death;

And He will renew his body like fresh plaster upon a wall,

And fill his bones with marrow.

He will make his flesh young like a child’s

And restore him among men in full manhood.

He shall pray to the Lord, and his prayer shall be accepted.

He shall come to prayer with an innocent face

And with an utterance of thanksgiving,

For He will restore righteousness to men.

Even then, a man shall blame himself, saying,

‘I am to blame because of what I did,

Yet He has not examined my guilt

To the extent of my unworthiness.’

Save my soul from going down to corruption,

So my life shall see the light.

“Behold all these things:

The Mighty One works three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death

That my life may praise Him in the light.

“Give ear, Job; listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will speak.

If you have anything to say, answer me;

Speak, for I desire you to be declared as righteous.

If not, listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 5:1-27 or 2 Kings 5:1-27\*

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Naaman, commander of the army of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord gave victory to Syria. The man was mighty in strength and valor, but a leper. And the Syrians, lightly armed, had gone out on raids and brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet of God in Samaria! For he would expel his leprosy from him.” And she went in and told her master, saying, “This is what the girl from the land of Israel said.” Then the king of Syria said to Naaman, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand gold shekels, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, “Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I am sending Naaman my servant to you, so that you may heal him of his leprosy.”

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, able to kill and make alive, to heal this man of his leprosy that this man sends to me? You perceive and see that this man is using this as a pretext for a quarrel with me.” When Elisha the man of God heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent notice to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel.”

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became furious and went away, saying, “Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

Then his servants approached and said to him, “If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, ‘Bathe and be clean.’ ” So Naaman went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha’s instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed. Then he, with all his aides, returned to Elisha and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I have come to know that in all the earth there is no God except the God of Israel. Now accept the gift of your servant.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” Again he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, “If not, then, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of red earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful with your servant: when my master goes there, to the house of Rimmon, to worship, he will rely on my hand, and I will worship in the house of Rimmon. In the worship in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter.” Then Elisha said to Naaman, “Go in peace.”

He departed from him but a short distance. Then Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, said, “Behold, my master spared this Syrian Naaman, yet from his hand he received nothing of what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something of his.” So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he turned from the chariot to meet him. And Gehazi said, “Peace. My master sent me saying, ‘Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets came to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.’ ” Then Naaman said, “Take two talents of silver.” So Gehazi took two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants. They left and carried them on ahead of him. As they entered into the darkness, he took them from their hands and stored them in the house. He then dismissed the men. Now he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, “From where have you come, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.”

Then Elisha said to him, “Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? And now you received the silver and the garments, and it shall happen that you shall receive from him gardens and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and men-servants and handmaidens. And the leprosy of Naaman shall also cling to you and your seed forever.” Thus he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\* Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-28

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-2:1

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Be ‘doers of the word’; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a ‘hearer of the word’ and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselvesto invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, “We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 10:1-11:10

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death.” So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you.” But Moses said, “No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Thus our cattle shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.”

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, “Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die.” So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Now the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here. Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing.” So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne even to the firstborn of the female servant behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against not even one of the descendants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.’ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go from here, and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:21-28

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you to be My servant; therefore, you, O Israel, do not forget Me. For behold, I blotted out your lawlessness like a cloud and your sins like darkness. Return to Me, and I will redeem you. Be glad, O heavens, for the Lord had mercy on Israel. Sound the trumpet, you foundations of the earth; shout with gladness, you mountains and hills and every tree on them. For God redeemed Jacob, and Israel will be glorified.”

Thus says the Lord, who redeems you and forms you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who accomplishes all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and established the earth. Who else will scatter abroad the sign of ventriloquists and the divinations from their heart, turning their shrewd men backward and making their counsel foolishness? Who else establishes the word of His servant, proving the counsel of His messengers to be true? Who else says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ and to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built, and the desert places shall spring forth’? Who else says to the deep, ‘You shall be dried up, and I will dry up your rivers’? Who else tells Cyrus to be wise, and do all My will, and says to Jerusalem, ‘You will be built, and I shall lay the foundation of My holy house’?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 8:23-35

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works;

He established me in the beginning before time,

Before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses,

Before the going forth of the fountains of waters,

Before the mountains were created;

And He begot me before all hills.

The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places

And the inhabited heights under heaven.

When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him,

And when He set apart His throne upon the winds.

When He made strong the things above the clouds,

And made sure the fountains under heaven,

And made strong the foundations of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

I was He in whom He rejoiced;

Daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.

When He completed the world, He rejoiced,

And He rejoiced in the sons of men.

Now therefore, my son, hear me:

Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me

And the man who shall guard my ways;

Who watches daily at my doors,

Who keeps watch at the doors of my entryways;

For my issues are the issues of life,

And grace is prepared from the Lord.

But those who sin against me act ungodly toward their own souls,

And those who hate me love death.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 34:1-37

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu continued and said:

“Hear me, O wise men who are present,

And pay close attention to what is good.

For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for ourselves;

Let us know among ourselves what is good.

For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,

And the Lord has taken away my judgment.’

But he spoke untruth in my judgment when he said,

‘My wound is severe, though I am without wrongdoing.’

What man is like Job,

Who drinks scorn like water?

For he says, ‘I have not sinned, nor committed ungodliness,

Nor had anything in common with the workers of lawlessness,

So as to walk with ungodly men.’

For you should not say, ‘There shall be no visitation of a man,’

Whereas there is a visitation on him from the Lord.

“Therefore listen to me, you wise in heart:

May it be far from me to act in an ungodly way before the Lord

And to pervert righteousness before the Almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

And in a man’s path He will find him.

Do you think the Lord will do wrong,

Or will the Almighty who made the earth pervert judgment?

Who is He who created everything under heaven

And all things therein?

If He should wish to hold and restrain His breath within Himself,

All flesh would die together,

And every mortal would return to the ground

From which he was formed.

Take heed to this, lest He warn you;

Pay close attention to the voice of His words.

Behold then the one who hates lawless things

And destroys the evil ones.

He is forever righteous.

He is ungodly who says to a king,

‘You act contrary to the law,’

And to rulers, ‘O, most ungodly one.’

Such a man is not ashamed

Before the face of an honorable man,

Nor does he know how to give honor to the great,

So as to show proper respect.

But it will prove to be in vain for them to cry out

And beg the favor of a man;

For they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

“For He is the observer of the works of man,

And nothing of what they do escapes Him.

There is no place for the workers of lawlessness to hide themselves.

He need not further consider a man,

For the Lord gazes upon all men.

He comprehends unsearchable things,

Glorious also and extraordinary things without number.

He discloses their works;

And He will overthrow them in the night,

And they will be brought low.

He extinguishes the ungodly,

For they are visible before Him,

Because they turned aside from the law of God

And would not regard His ordinances,

So as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;

For He will hear the cry of the poor.

He will provide quietness, and who shall condemn Him?

And He will hide His face, and who shall see Him?

Whether it be done against a nation or a man jointly,

To cause a hypocrite to be king,

Because of the discontent of the people.

“For there is one that says to the Mighty One,

‘I have received blessings; I will not take in pledge;

I will see apart from myself;

Show me if I have done unrighteousness,

And I will do so no more.’

Will He not take vengeance for it from you,

Because you failed to listen to your conscience?

For you will choose, and not I;

Therefore, speak what you know.

“For this reason wise men in heart shall say this,

And a wise man listens to my word.

But Job has spoken without understanding,

And his words are without knowledge.

But learn, Job, and no longer answer like that of foolish men,

That we add not to our sins;

For lawlessness will be counted against us

If we speak many words against the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 10:1-31

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

As goes the leader of a people, so also are his officials,

And all the inhabitants of a city will reflect its ruler.

An undisciplined king will ruin his people,

But a city will be made habitable through the wisdom of its rulers.

The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord,

And He will raise up the right man for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the hand of the Lord,

And He confers His honor upon the person of the scribe.

Do not cherish anger against your neighbor for any injury,

And do nothing by acts of insolence.

Arrogance is hateful before God and man,

And wrongdoing is offensive to both.

Dominion is transferred from nation to nation

Because of wrongdoing, insolence, and wealth.

How can he who is earth and ashes be arrogant?

Because even while living, his insides are decaying.

A physician scoffs at a long illness,

And a king today will also die tomorrow.

When a man dies, he will inherit

Reptiles, wild animals, and worms.

The beginning of a man’s arrogance is to depart from the Lord,

For his heart withdraws from the One who created him.

For the beginning of arrogance is sin,

And he who takes hold of it will pour out an abomination.

Therefore the Lord will bring them extraordinary distress

And completely destroy them.

The Lord pulls down the thrones of rulers

And seats the gentle in their place.

The Lord plucks out the roots of nations

And plants the humble in their place.

The Lord overthrows the lands of the nations

And destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,

And puts an end to their memory on the earth.

Arrogance was not created by mankind,

Nor fierce anger by the offspring of women.

What kind of seed is honored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honored?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

Those who transgress the commandments.

Among brothers their leader is honored,

And those who fear the Lord are honored in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority,

But roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

The rich and the honored and the poor alike—

Their boasting is the fear of the Lord.

It is not right to dishonor an intelligent poor man,

Nor is it proper to honor a sinful man.

The nobleman, the judge, and the ruler will be honored,

But none of them is greater than the one who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a wise servant,

And an understanding man will not grumble.

Do not put your wisdom on display when you do your work,

Nor magnify yourself in the time of your trouble.

Better is he who works and has plenty

Than he who magnifies himself but has no bread.

My son, honor your soul with gentleness

And give it honor according to its worth.

Who will declare righteous the man who sins against his soul,

And who will honor the man who dishonors his life?

A poor man is honored for his knowledge,

While a rich man is honored for his wealth.

If a man is honored in poverty,

How much more in wealth,

And if a man is dishonored in wealth,

How much more in poverty?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:12-24

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth. You therefore who teach another, [why] do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, [why] do you steal? You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who glory in the law by your disobedience of the law, [why] do you dishonor God? For “the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:20-2:6

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1-8

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### 4 Kings 4:8-37 or 2 Kings 4:8-37

From the Fourth book of Kings.

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, “Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place.” Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, “Call this Shunammite woman.” He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, “Say now to her, ‘Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?’ ” But she answered, “I dwell among my own people.”

So Elisha said, “What then is to be done for her?” And his servant, Gehazi, replied, “She certainly has no son, and her husband is old.” Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said, “About this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” So she said, “No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!” Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew.

And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” His father said to a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, “Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back.” So he said, “Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath.” And she replied, “It is well.”

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’ ” And she answered, “Peace.” Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me.” So she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?”

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child.” Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child’s face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child is not awakened.”

Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite woman.” So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, “Take your son.” So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:1-10

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,

And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;

She mixed her wine in a bowl

And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,

Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,

Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 35:1-16

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu continued, saying:

“What is this you consider as judgment?

Who are you to say, ‘I am righteous before the Lord’?

Or will you say, ‘What did I do, if I have sinned?’

“I will answer you and your three friends.

Look up to heaven and see,

And observe the cloud as higher than you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

If you have acted very lawlessly, what can you do?

Since therefore you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what did He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness may affect a man such as you,

Or your righteousness a son of man.

“Those who are slandered by a multitude will cry out;

They will cry out for help because of the strength of the many.

But no one says, ‘Where is the God who made me,

Who appoints the night watches,

Who distinguishes me from the four-footed animals of the earth

And from the birds of heaven?’

There they will cry out, but no one answers,

Because of the insolence of evil men.

For the Lord does not desire to look on wrongdoing,

For He, the Almighty, is the observer

Of those who perform lawless deeds,

But He will save me.

Decide before Him if you can praise Him as it is now possible.

But now, He is not visiting His wrath,

Nor even taking notice of very much transgression;

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain;

In ignorance he burdens us with words.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 11:1-10

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The wisdom of a humble man will exalt his head,

And he will take his seat among the great.

Do not praise a man for his good looks,

And do not detest one because of his appearance.

The bee is small among winged creatures,

But her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast about your fine clothes,

Nor magnify yourself in the day you are honored;

Because the works of the Lord are wondrous,

And His works are hidden from men.

Many tyrants have sat on the ground,

But one never thought of has worn a crown.

Many rulers have suffered exceeding disgrace,

And honored men have been betrayed into the hands of others.

Do not find fault before you examine a situation.

First, understand it, and then make your judgment.

Do not answer before you have listened,

And do not interrupt someone while he is talking.

Do not argue about a matter that does not concern you,

And do not sit together with sinners when they judge a case.

My son, do not let your business involve too many things.

If you multiply them, you will not remain unpunished,

And if you pursue them, you will not overtake them;

And you will not escape by running away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 2:1-3:4

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, I encourage that first of all, petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all: for kings and all in high places, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and piety. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all - this testimony [was given] in its own times. I was appointed a preacher and an apostle of these things (I am telling the truth in Christ, not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire, therefore, that in every place, the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or doubting. In the same way, women should wear decent clothing, modest and fitting, without elaborate hairstyle, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, but with good works (which is fitting for women professing godliness). Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:19-25

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:16-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 22:1-18

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham! Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” He then replied, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, “In the mountain the Lord was seen.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:11-17

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: “Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven and commanded all the stars. I raised him up to be a king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts,” says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass over to you. They shall be your servants and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say, ‘There is no God besides You. For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.’ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:12-21

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths,

“He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me;

And he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying,

‘Grasp with pleasure the secret bread

And the sweet water of theft.’ ”

But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her,

And he happens upon a snare of Hades.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 36:1-32\*

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu also proceeded and said:

‘Wait for me yet a little while, that I may teach you,

For there is yet more for me to say.

I will gather my knowledge from afar

And truly speak of righteousness in my works.

You were not hearing unjust words without good reason.

“But know that the Lord who is mighty in strength of heart

Does not cast off an innocent man.

He will not give life to the ungodly,

But He will give judgment to the poor.

He will not turn away from the righteous,

But will seat them on the throne with kings;

For He will lift them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But if they are bound in fetters,

They shall be held in the cords of poverty.

He will tell them their works and their transgressions,

For such will act with violence.

He also will hear the righteous,

And He said they will turn from wrongdoing.

If they give ear and serve Him,

They shall spend their days in good things

And their years in dignity.

But He does not save the ungodly,

Because they are not willing to know the Lord,

And because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

“For the hypocrites in heart will marshal anger against themselves,

And they will not cry for help, because He has bound them.

Therefore, may their soul die in youth,

And their life be wounded by messengers of death,

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

And He will make manifest the judgment of the gentle.

“Besides, He deceived you by the mouth of the enemy.

There is an abyss and a pouring over beneath it,

And your table descended full of fatness.

Judgment shall not fail from the righteous,

But there shall be anger against the ungodly

Because of the ungodliness of the gifts they received for wrongdoings.

Let not your heart willingly turn you aside

From the petition of the weak who are in distress.

Do not lure away all the mighty men at night

So the people should go up instead of them.

“But guard yourself, lest you do what is wrong,

For you chose this because of poverty.

Behold, the Mighty One shall prevail by His strength.

Who is so powerful as He?

Who is he who examines His works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done unjustly’?

“Remember, His works are great,

Because of which men began to exist.

Everyone has seen for himself

How many mortals are wounded.

“Behold, the Mighty One is great,

And we do not know Him.

The number of His years is also endless.

For He numbers the drops of rain,

And they shall be poured out in rain to form a cloud.

The ancient clouds shall drop down

And overshadow innumerable mortals.

He has fixed a time for cattle,

And they know the appointed time for their rest.

Yet your mind is not astonished by these things,

Nor does your heart leap out from your body.

For one should perceive the outspreadings of a cloud

And the measure of His tabernacle.

Behold, He stretches His bow against him

And covers the bottom of the sea.

For by these He will judge the peoples.

He will give food to him who has strength.

He has hidden light in His hands

And given orders to the cloud by which it is diverted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Kitchener and Ottawa, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Job 37:1-24\*

Again from the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“At this also my heart was troubled and flows from its place.

Listen attentively to the thunder of the Lord’s wrath

And the discourse coming from His mouth.

His dominion is under the whole heaven

And His light to the ends of the earth.

Behind Him a voice will cry aloud.

He will thunder with His voice of outrage,

Yet He will not change them when His voice is heard.

The Mighty One will thunder marvelously with His voice,

For He does great things we cannot comprehend.

For He commands the snow, ‘Fall upon the earth,’

And likewise there is the winter,

The rain and the winter storms of His might.

He seals up the hand of every man

That everyone may know his weakness.

The wild animals go into their shelters

And are at rest in their lairs.

From the secret chambers comes the whirlwind,

And cold from the mountaintop.

By the breath of the Mighty One, He will send frost,

And He freezes the waters as He wishes.

And when the cloud obscures what He chooses,

His light will disperse the cloud.

He will swirl the encircling clouds by His governance

To perform all their works,

Moving them to do whatever He commands.

This has been appointed by Him on the earth,

Whether for correction or for His earth,

Or if He shall find him an object for mercy.

“Pay close attention to this, O Job.

Stand still and consider the power of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed His works,

Having made light out of darkness.

He knows the division of the clouds

And the violent falls of evil men.

But your robe is warm,

And there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish with Him the foundations

For the ancient heavens?

They are strong like a molten mirror.

“What is this to you? Teach me what we will say to Him,

And let us cease speaking many words.

Have I a book or scribe by me

That I may stand and put man to silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the ancient heavens,

As that which is from Him in the clouds.

From the north come the clouds, shining like gold;

In these great things are the glory and honor of the Almighty.

We do not find another like Him in His strength.

Do you not think He who judges righteously listens?

Therefore men shall fear Him,

And the wise in heart shall fear Him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Ottawa and Kitchener, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Tobit 1:1-3:6

From the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the book of the words of Tobit, the son of Tobiel, the son of Hananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, from the tribe of Naphtali. He was led captive out of Thisbe in the days of Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians. Thisbe is south of Kedesh Naphtali, in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I did much almsgiving to my brethren and to the people who journeyed with me as exiles to Nineveh, in the country of the Assyrians. In my young days, when I was in my own country, the land of Israel, the entire tribe of my father Naphtali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to sacrifice for all the tribes. This temple, the habitation of the Most High God, was sanctified and built for all generations forever.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt sacrificed the heifer to Baal. The house of Naphtali, the tribe of my father, also revolted. But I alone traveled frequently to Jerusalem for the feast days, as it is written for all of Israel in an everlasting ordinance. I would carry the firstfruits and the tithes of my harvest and the first-shearing. These I would give to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I would offer the tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi who served at Jerusalem. I would also sell off the second tenth and go and spend it at Jerusalem each year. The third tenth I would give to whom it was fitting, as Deborah the mother of my father commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. When I became a man, I took Anna for a wife from my own kindred. With her I became the father of Tobias.

When I was taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those from my race ate from the bread of the Gentiles. But I protected myself by not eating it. For I remembered God with all my soul. So the Most High gave me grace and comeliness before Shalmaneser, and I became his purchasing agent. I would go into Media. And one time in Rages of Media, I entrusted to Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, ten talents of silver.

When Shalmaneser died and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the roads were unstable and I could no longer travel to Media. In the days of Shalmaneser, I did much almsgiving to my brothers. I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked. If I saw anyone of my people dead, cast outside the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him. If King Sennacherib put someone to death when he came trying to escape from Judea, I buried them secretly. For in his anger, he put many to death, and the bodies were sought by the king; but they were not found. But one of the men of Nineveh went and made known to the king concerning my burying them. So I hid, and when I knew I was being sought to be put to death I was frightened and ran away. All of my possessions were seized and I had nothing left, except Anna my wife and Tobias my son.

But not even fifty days passed before two of King Sennacherib’s sons had killed him and escaped into the mountains of Ararat. Thus Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Anael, to be over all the accounts of his kingdom and over the entire government. Ahikar then entreated on my behalf, so I came to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was the wine-pourer, the keeper of the signet ring, the administrator and the accountant. Esarhaddon appointed him second to himself, and he was my nephew.

When I arrived at my house, my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the Feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A good dinner was prepared for me, so I sat down at the table to eat. When I saw the abundance of meat, I said to my son, “Go and bring whomever you may find of our needy brethren who are mindful of the Lord. Behold, I will wait for you.” But he came back and said, “O father, one of our people was strangled and thrown into the marketplace.” So before I even tasted anything, I jumped up and carried the corpse into a room until sunset. Then I returned, bathed myself, and ate my bread in sorrow. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said,

“Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

And all your gladness into a song of grief.”

So I wept. When the sun went down, I departed, and after digging a grave, I buried him. My neighbors laughed at me and said, “He is no longer afraid to be put to death for doing such a thing. He ran away before, and now, behold, he is burying the dead again.”

On the same night that I buried him, I returned home. But since I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the courtyard with my face uncovered.

However, I did not see the sparrows on the wall, for while my eyes were open the sparrows discharged their droppings into my eyes, and they became white films in my eyes. I went to physicians, but they could not help me. Then Ahikar supported me until he left for Elymais.

Then my wife Anna worked for hire at what women do. She would send her work to the owners and they would pay her. On one occasion they paid her wages and also gave her a small goat. But when she returned to me, it began to bleat. So I said to her, “Where did this goat come from? Is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is unlawful to eat what is stolen.” But she replied, “It was given to me as a gift. It was in addition to my wages.” But I did not believe her, telling her to return it to its owners. I blushed in embarrassment for her sake. So she answered and said to me, “Are your acts of charity and righteous deeds lawful? Behold, you are a know-it-all!”

Then I wept in my sorrow, and with pain I prayed, saying:

“O Lord, You are righteous. So too are all Your works. All Your ways are mercy and truth. Your judgments are true and just forever. Remember me and look upon me with favor. Do not punish me for my sins and my ignorance, nor those sins of my fathers which they committed against You. Because they disobeyed Your commands, so You gave us as spoil, captivity and death. You made us a byword of disgrace among all the nations in which we were scattered. Now Your judgments concerning my sins are many and they are true, because I did them, and so did my fathers. For we did not keep Your commandments. Indeed we did not walk in truth before You. Now do with me as is best before You. Command that my spirit be taken up, so I may be released and become soil, since it is better for me to die than to live. For I have heard false insults, and there is much sorrow within me. Command that I be freed from distress to now enter into the eternal place. Do not turn Your face away from me.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 3:7-3:16

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On the same day, in Ecbatana of Media, Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, happened to be insulted by her father’s maids. She was married to seven husbands, but before they could be with her as a wife, Asmodeus, the evil demon, killed them. So they said to her, “Do you not recollect that you strangled these husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Therefore, why punish us? If they are dead, go with them. May we never see a son or daughter of yours.”

When she heard this, she was so distressed that she considered hanging herself. But she said, “I am the only one of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades.” So she prayed by her window and said:

“Blessed are You, O Lord my God. Blessed is Your holy and precious name unto the ages. May all Your works bless You forever. Now, O Lord, I offer myself completely to You. Command that I be released from the land, that I may not hear such disgrace any more. O Lord, You know that I am innocent of any sin with a man. I have not defiled my name nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am my father’s only offspring. He has no other child who will be his heir. Neither does he have a brother close at hand, nor an adopted son that I might keep myself as a wife to him. Seven of my husbands have already perished. What should I live for? But if it does not seem good to You to kill me, command that I be looked upon with favor, and that mercy be shown to me, so I may no longer hear disgrace.”

The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the great glory of Raphael, and he was sent to heal the two of them: to remove the white films from Tobit; to give Sarah of Raguel to Tobias the son of Tobit as a wife; and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for it fell upon Tobias to inherit her. At that same time Tobit returned and entered his house, and Sarah of Raguel came down from her upstairs room.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 4:1-6:9

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On that day Tobit remembered the silver he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said to himself, “I requested death for myself. Why do I not call my son Tobias to make this known to him before I die?”

So he summoned him and said, “My son, if I die, bury me, but do not disregard your mother. Honor her all the days of your life. Do what is pleasing to her, but do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she experienced many dangers for you while you were in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in the same grave. My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not desire to sin or to disobey His commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing. For if you walk in the truth, you will be successful in your works. Do almsgiving from your possessions to all who do righteousness. When you do almsgiving, do not let your eye be envious. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, so the face of God will not be turned away from you. Do almsgiving based on the quantity of your possessions. If you possess only a few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. You are storing up a good treasure for yourself in the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers us from death and prevents us from entering into the darkness. Indeed, almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

“My son, guard yourself from all fornication, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers. Do not take a foreign woman who is not from the tribe of your father, for we are sons of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers from of old. Remember, my son, that all these took wives from among their brothers and were blessed in their children. Their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brothers and do not be arrogant in your heart against your brothers, the sons and daughters of your people. Take a wife for yourself from them, for arrogance brings destruction and great disorder, and in such worthlessness there is loss and great defect. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

“Do not keep overnight the wages of any man who works for you, but pay him immediately. If you serve God, He will pay you. Give heed to yourself, my son, in all your works, and be disciplined in all your conduct. What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine unto a state of drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness become your traveling companion. From your bread, give to him who is hungry, and from your clothing, give to the naked. If you have more than you need, do almsgiving, and do not let your eye envy the almsgiving when you do it. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but do not give it to sinners.

“Seek counsel from every sensible man, and do not treat any useful advice with contempt. At every opportunity bless the Lord God, but more than this ask that your ways may become straight, and that all your paths and purposes may prosper. For not every nation has understanding. But the Lord Himself gives all that is good, and as He desires He humbles whomever He will. Now my son, let none of my commandments be removed from your heart.

“Now let me point out to you the ten talents of silver I entrusted to Gabael the son of Gabrias, in Rages of Media. Do not fear, my son, that we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God. Stay away from every sin, and do what is pleasing before Him.”

Tobias answered him and said, “O father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how will I be able to obtain the silver, for I do not know him?” Then he gave him the record of the debt and said to him, “Find for yourself a man who will travel with you, and I will pay him his wages as long as I remain alive. Now go and obtain the silver.”

Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel. But he did not know it. So Tobias said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages of Media? Are you acquainted with those places?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you. I am acquainted with the roadways and I have lodged with our brother Gabael.” Tobias said to him, “Wait for me and I will tell my father.” He said to him, “Do so, but do not delay.”

So he went to his father and said, “Behold, I have found someone who will go with me.” But his father said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is trustworthy enough to go with you.” So he invited him, and Raphael came in. They greeted one another cordially.

Tobit then said to him, “Brother, to what tribe and kindred do you belong?” Raphael responded, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a hired man to go with your son?” Tobit replied, “Brother, I wish to know your people and your name.” Then he said, “I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the Great, one of your relatives.” So Tobit said to him, “You are most welcome, my brother. Do be not angry with me for seeking to learn of your tribe and your family. As it turns out, you are a brother of mine from a good and upright family. For I knew Ananias and Jonathan, the sons of Shemiah the Great, since we would journey in common to Jerusalem to worship and to offer the firstborn and the tenth of our harvest. They were not led astray in the deception of our brothers. My brother, you are from a good root.

“But tell me, what shall I give you as wages? A drachma a day and expenses for you and my son? I will even add more to your pay, if you both return in good health.” Thus they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobias, “Prepare for the journey, and may it be prosperous.” So his son prepared the things for the journey. Then his father said to him, “Go with this man, and may the God who dwells in heaven prosper your journey. May His angel journey with you.” They both departed, and the young man’s dog went with them.

But Anna his mother wept and said to Tobit, “Why have you sent our son away, or is he not the staff of our hands when he goes in and out before us? Do not attain silver upon silver, but may it be dirt compared to our son. For as he was given to us to live by the Lord, this is sufficient for our existence.” Tobit said to her, “My sister, do not be concerned. He shall return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey shall be prosperous. He will return in good health.” So she ceased weeping.

They went on the journey and came to the Tigris River. So they spent the evening there. The young man went down to wash himself, and a fish jumped up from the river and was determined to swallow the young man. The angel said to him, “Take hold of the fish.” So the young man grabbed the fish and put it on the bank. Then the angel said to him, “Cut open the fish. Take the heart, the liver, and the gall and put them in a safe place.” The young man did as the angel commanded him. Then they cooked the fish and ate it.

After this, they traveled together until they came near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, what is the purpose of the liver, the heart, and the gall of the fish?” He replied, “If a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, the heart and the liver must be used to make smoke before the man or woman, and that person will never be troubled again. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man who has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 6:10-9:6

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As they came near Rages, the angel said to the young man, “Brother, we will spend the night with Raguel. He is your relative and with him is his only child, a daughter named Sarah. I will speak for her that she might be given to you as a wife, because her inheritance belongs to you; for you alone are from her people. The girl is beautiful and she is sensible.

“So now listen to me, for I will speak to her father. When we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding. For I know that Raguel cannot give her to any other man according to the rule of Moses, or he will be subject to death. Thus it is proper that you receive the inheritance rather than another man.”

Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, I have heard the girl was given seven husbands, and they all perished in the bridal chamber. Now I am the only son of my father, and I fear for myself lest, entering the bridal chamber, I may die even as those before me. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone except those who approach her. Now I fear for myself lest I die and bring the life of my father and mother down into their tomb with grief and sorrow upon me. They have no other son who will bury them.”

But the angel said to him, “Do you not remember the words your father commanded you, to take a wife for yourself from among your people? Now listen to me, brother, for she will be a wife to you. As for the demon, have no concern, for this night she will be given to you as a wife. If you enter the bridal chamber, you will take with you ashes of incense, and lay some of it on the heart and liver of the fish. Then you will make smoke, and the demon will smell it and flee and never return. When you approach her, both of you will rise up and cry out to the merciful God. He will save you and be merciful. Do not fear for yourself, for she has been prepared for you from of old. You will save her and she will go with you. I believe that you will have children by her.”

As Tobias heard these words, he loved her and his soul was very much united to her.

Then they went to Ecbatana and came to the house of Raguel. Sarah went ahead to meet them, and after they greeted one another, she escorted them into the house. Raguel said to Edna his wife, “How the young man resembles my cousin Tobit!” Then Raguel asked them, “Where are you from, brothers?” They answered, “We are from the sons of Naphtali who are captives in Nineveh.” Then he said to them, “Do you know Tobit our brother?” They responded, “We know him.” Then he asked, “Is he in good health?” They answered, “He is alive and in good health.” Tobias then added, “He is my father.”

Raguel jumped up and kissed him and wept. He blessed him and said to him, “You are the son of a good and noble man!” But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept. Edna his wife and Sarah his daughter also wept, and they received them eagerly. And they killed a ram from the sheep and set many dishes before them.

Then Tobias said to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak about what you said on the way, and let the matter be completed.” So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, “Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting for you to marry my child. However, I must tell you the truth. I gave my daughter to seven men, and when they went in to her, they died during the night. But for now, be glad!” But Tobias said, “I will not eat anything until after you establish an agreement with me.” So Raguel said, “Receive her according to the decree, for you are her relative and she is yours. The merciful God will prosper you in what is good.”

So he called Sarah his daughter, and taking her by the hand, he gave her to be a wife for Tobias. Then he said, “Behold, receive her according to the decree of Moses, and bring her before your father.” He then blessed them and summoned his wife Edna. She took a scroll and wrote out the agreement. They sealed it, and then they began to eat.

After this, Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, “Sister, prepare the other room and lead her into it.” She did as he said and led her there. Then Sarah wept, but Edna understood the tears of her daughter and said to her, “Be courageous, my child. May the Lord of heaven and earth give you grace instead of this sorrow of yours. Be courageous, my daughter.”

When they finished dining, they led Tobias to her. As he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon the embers of the incense and made smoke. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled to the upper parts of Egypt, and there the angel bound him. While both were enclosed in the room, Tobias rose up from the bed and said, “Arise, sister, and let us pray that the Lord will have mercy upon us.” So Tobias began to pray, saying:

“Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and blessed is Your holy and glorious name unto the ages. The heavens and all Your creatures bless You. You made Adam and gave him Eve as a helper, his wife as a support. From them the seed of mankind came to be. You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Us make a helper for him like himself.’ O Lord, I now take this my sister as my wife, not on account of fornication, but in truth. Command that she and I may have mercy, and in this grow old together.”

And with him she said, “Amen.” Then both fell asleep for the night.

But Raguel rose up and went outside and dug a grave, saying, “He, too, may have died.” Raguel then went back into his house and said to his wife Edna, “Send one of the maids and let her see if indeed Tobias is alive. If he is not, let us bury him that no one may know.” So the maid went to the door, and when she opened it she found both of them sleeping. She came out and told the two of them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying:

“Blessed are You, the God, with every pure and holy blessing. Your holy ones and all Your creatures bless You. All Your angels and Your chosen ones bless You unto all the ages. Blessed are You, for You have made me glad, and it did not turn out for me as I suspected. Rather, You did with us according to Your abundant mercy. Blessed are You, for You had mercy on our two only children. O Lord, show them mercy, and complete their life in health and with gladness and mercy.”

Then he ordered his household servants to fill in the grave.

After this he provided a wedding feast for them lasting fourteen days. Before the time of the wedding feast was over, Raguel swore an oath and said to Tobias, “You are not to leave from here unless the two of you stay the fourteen days of the wedding feast. At that time take half of my belongings and go in good health to your father. The remainder will be yours when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant and two camels with you and journey to Rages of Media. Find Gabael and bring the silver back to me and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn an oath for me not to go away. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay much longer he will be very distressed.” Then Raphael went and spent the night with Gabael, and gave him the handwritten receipt. So Gabael brought the small sealed bags and gave them to him. They both rose early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. Then Tobias blessed his wife.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 10:1-11:19

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit his father was counting each day. But when the days needed to complete the journey ended and they had not returned, he asked, “Has he perhaps been dishonored? Or has Gabael died and no one gave him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife told him, “The young man has perished. That is why he is delayed.” Then she began to weep for him and said, “Nothing matters to me, my child, the light of my eyes, for I permitted you to go.” So Tobit said to her, “Be silent and have no more thoughts about it. He is in good health.”

She replied to him, “You be quiet. Do not deceive me. My child has perished.” Then throughout the day she went outside to the road by which he departed, and during the day she did not eat bread. At night she did not cease lamenting for her son Tobias until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were over, the days Raguel swore him to celebrate there.

Then Tobias said to Raguel, “Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope they will see me.” But his father-in-law said to him, “Stay with me, and I will send messengers to your father. They will make clear to him how you are doing.” But Tobias said, “No indeed. On the contrary, send me back to my father.”

Then Raguel arose and gave Sarah his wife to him, and half of his belongings in servants, cattle, and silver. Then he blessed them and sent them on their way, saying, “May the God of heaven prosper you, my children, before the day I die.” To his daughter he said, “Honor your husband’s mother and father, for they are now your parents. Let me hear a good report of you,” and he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, “My beloved brother, may the Lord of heaven bring you back and grant me to see your children from my daughter Sarah, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Behold, I am entrusting my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her.” With this, Tobias went on his way blessing God that He had prospered his journey. Then he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He traveled until they approached Nineveh. Here Raphael said to Tobias, “My brother, are you not aware of how you left your father? Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house. Take the gall of the fish in your hand.” So they proceeded, and the dog followed behind them.

Meanwhile Anna sat gazing upon the road for her boy. She perceived that he was coming and said to the father, “Behold, your son is coming, and the man traveling with him!”

Raphael said, “I know that the eyes of your father will open. Rub the gall on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you.”

Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, “I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!” So they both wept. Then Tobit came out of the door. He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, “Father, take courage!” Then as his eyes stung, he rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, “Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son.” His son went in rejoicing and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit rejoiced and blessed God as he went to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh. But those who saw him as he walked along were amazed that he could see. Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. Then as Tobit drew near to meet Sarah, his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, “May you be in good health, my daughter! Blessed is God who brought you to us, and blessed are your father and your mother.”

So there was rejoicing among all his brethren in Nineveh. Even Ahikar and his nephew Nadab came, for the wedding feast for Tobias was kept with gladness for seven days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 12:1-14:15

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit summoned his son Tobias and said to him, “My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you, and we must add to them.” He replied to him, “My father, it is no harm for me to give him half of what I brought. For he brought me safely to you, healed my wife, and brought me the silver. Likewise he healed you.” The elderly man replied, “He more than earned it.” So he called the angel and said to him, “Take half of everything you brought.”

Then Raphael secretly called the two of them, and said to them, “Bless God and give Him thanks. Ascribe greatness to Him and give thanks in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt His name. Make known the words of God’s works honorably and do not delay to give thanks to Him. It is noble to keep hidden the secret of a king, but glorious to unveil the works of God. Do good, and evil will not find you. Prayer is good with fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A few prayers with righteousness are better than many with wrongdoing. It is better to do almsgiving than to lay up gold. For almsgiving rescues one from death, and it will wash away every sin. Those who do almsgiving and are righteous will be full of life. But those who sin are enemies of their own life.

“I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I did say that it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayer before the Holy One. When you also buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. Then too, when you did not hesitate to stand up and leave your dinner so as to depart and care for the dead, your doing what is good did not escape me; but I was with you. Now God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who report the prayers of the saints and who enter before the glory of the Holy One.”

The two of them were troubled and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid, for peace shall be with you. But bless God forever. For I did not come of my own good will, but rather by the will of our God. Therefore bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you I did not eat or drink; but you were seeing a vision. Now give thanks to God, because I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that was accomplished.”

Then they stood up, but no longer saw him. They acknowledged the great and wondrous works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit with exceeding joy wrote a prayer, saying:

“Blessed is God

Who lives unto the ages,

And blessed is His kingdom,

For He scourges, and is merciful;

He brings down into Hades,

And leads up.

There is no one who will escape His hand.

Give thanks to Him before the nations,

O children of Israel,

For He scattered us among them.

Make known His greatness there;

Exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

For He is our Lord and God;

He is our Father unto all the ages.

He will scourge us for our wrongdoings,

But He will again have mercy

And gather us from all the nations,

Wherever you were dispersed among them.

If you return to Him with all your heart

And with all your soul,

To do the truth before Him,

Then He will turn to you

And not hide His presence from you.

Behold for yourself what He will do for you,

And give thanks to Him fully with the organ of speech.

Bless the Lord of righteousness,

And exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity, I give thanks to Him,

And make known His might and majesty to a nation of sinners.

Be converted, you sinners,

And do righteousness before Him.

Who knows if He will desire you

And have mercy on you?

I exalt my God,

And my soul exalts the King of heaven

And will rejoice exceedingly in His majesty.

Let all speak of His majesty

And give thanks to Him in Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,

He will scourge you for the deeds of your sons,

But He will again show mercy to the sons of the righteous.

Give thanks to the Lord with goodness

And bless the King of the ages,

That His tabernacle may be restored again to you in joy.

May He rejoice in you, the captives,

And may He love those who are distressed among you

Unto all generations forever.

Many Gentiles will come from afar

To the name of the Lord God,

Bearing gifts in their hands

And offerings to the King of heaven.

Generations of generations will offer You joyful worship.

Cursed are all who hate You;

Blessed are all who love You forever.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for the children of the righteous,

For they will be gathered together

And will bless the Lord of the righteous.

Blessed are those who love You.

They will rejoice in Your peace.

Blessed are the many who grieved over all Your scourges,

For they will rejoice when they see all Your glory

And will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great King.

For Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald,

And her walls with precious stones,

And her towers and battlements with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be paved

With beryl, onyx, and stones from Ophir.

All her streets will proclaim, ‘**Alleluia**!’

And will give praise, saying,

‘Blessed is God, who exalted you unto all the ages.’”

Then Tobit ceased giving thanks.

He was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, and eight years later he regained it. Tobit did almsgiving, and continued to fear the Lord God, and gave thanks to Him. He grew very old, and called his son and his son’s sons, and said, “My son, take your sons. Behold, I have grown old, and I am departing from this life. Depart to Media, my son, for I trust all the words Jonah the prophet spoke concerning Nineveh, that it will be overthrown. But in Media there will be more peace for a time. For our brethren in the land will be dispersed in the earth from the good land. Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the house of God therein will be burned up. It shall be desolate for a time.

“But God will again have mercy on them, and He will return them to the land. They will build the house, but not as it was before, until the times of the age are fulfilled. After this, they will return from the captivity and build Jerusalem honorably. The house of God within her will be built as a glorious building for every generation forever, as the prophets said concerning her. All the Gentiles shall return to truly fear the Lord God. They shall bury their idols in the earth, and all the Gentiles will bless the Lord. His people will offer thanks to God, and the Lord will exalt His people. All who love the Lord God in truth and righteousness will rejoice. They will show mercy to our brethren.

“So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since what the prophet Jonah said will doubtless come to pass. But keep the law and the ordinances. Be merciful and righteous, that it may be well with you. Bury me decently and your mother with me, but lodge no longer in Nineveh. My son, observe what Aman did to Ahikar who reared him, how he led him from light into darkness, and how greatly he repaid him. Indeed Ahikar was saved, but as for that man, he was repaid with retribution and descended into the darkness. Manasseh did almsgiving and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap and perished. Now then, my children, observe what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers us.”

After he said these things, his soul departed as he lay on his bed. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and Tobias buried him gloriously. When Anna died, he buried her with his father. Then Tobias departed with his wife and his children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. He grew old honorably and buried the parents of his wife most respectfully. They inherited their estate and that of Tobit his father.

Tobias died at Ecbatana of Media when he was one hundred and twenty-seven years old. Before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, taken by Nebuchadnezzar and Ahasuerus. Thus before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:12-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:9-17

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened this him, from the least to the greatest. They said, “This man is the power of God, of the great kind!” People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

Now, when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them, so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirita had not yet come upon any of them. They had only been baptized in the Name of Christ Jesus. Then, Peter and Johnb laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:13-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

When the south wind began to blow softly, they thought that their goal was within reach. Having lifted the anchor, they sailed along [the coast of]

Crete, close to shore. But before long, a violent wind called ‘the northeastern’ rushed down from the island! The ship was caught and could not face the wind. We had to yield to the wind and the ship was driven along. Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

As the men had been for a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, “Sirs, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete; then you would have avoided this injury and loss. Now, I encourage you to keep your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I offer divine service stood by me. He said: ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar. Behold, God has granted you [the life] all those who sail with you.’ Therefore, sirs, be of good cheer! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me. However, we must run aground on some island.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:5-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:13-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to

us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 27:27-37

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

On the fourteenth night, at about midnight, as we were driven back and forth in the Adriatic Sea, the sailors surmised that they were approaching some land. They measured the depth of water and found twenty fathoms. A little while later, they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on rocky ground, they let down four anchors from the stern, hoping to hold steady until daylight. Trying escape from the ship, sailors lowered the lifeboat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow. Paul then said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved!” So the soldiers cut away the ropes of the lifeboat and let it fall off.

As the day was coming on, Paul begged them all to take some food, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that you wait and continue fasting, taking nothing. Now, I urge you to take some food! This is for your safety, and not a hair will perish from any of your heads.” When he had said this and taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all. Then he broke it and began to eat. At this, they all cheered up and also took food. In all, we were two hundred seventy-six souls on the ship.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:1-17

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise son makes his father glad,

But a son without discernment is a grief to his mother.

Treasures do not benefit lawless men,

But righteousness delivers from death.

The Lord will not let the soul of the righteous man starve,

But He overthrows the life of the ungodly.

Poverty humbles a man,

But the hands of courageous men enrich others.

A son who is instructed will be wise,

And he will use a man without discernment as a servant.

A son with understanding is kept safe from the heat,

But a lawless son is blasted by the wind at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man,

But untimely grief will cover the mouth of the ungodly.

The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

But the name of an ungodly man is extinguished.

The wise man in heart will receive the commandments,

But the man unguarded in speech will be overthrown in his perverseness.

He who walks in sincerity walks confidently,

But he who perverts his ways will be known.

He who winks his eyes deceitfully gathers grief for men,

But he who reproves boldly is a peacemaker.

A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man,

But the mouth of an ungodly man will hide destruction.

Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all who are not lovers of strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from his lips

Beats a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will hide perception,

But the mouth of a rash man approaches destruction.

The acquisition of riches is a fortified city,

But poverty is the destruction of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,

But the fruits of the ungodly produce sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 48:17-49:4

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: “I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me.”

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, “The Lord delivered His servant Jacob.” If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. “There is no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

“Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time,” says the Lord. “He called My name from My mother’s womb. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow and covered Me in His quiver. He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 38:1b-36

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying:

“Who is this who hides counsel from Me,

And holds words in his heart

And thinks to conceal them from Me?

Gird your waist like a man;

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know.

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened,

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the stars were made

And all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?

“I shut up the sea with doors

When it burst forth and issued from the womb.

I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in mist.

I fixed My limit for it and set bars and doors.

I said, ‘This far you may come, but no further,

And here your waves must stop.’

“Did I order the morning light in your time,

And did the morning star see its appointed place,

To lay hold of the ends of the earth

And to shake the ungodly out of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground and form a living creature,

And set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

Have you removed light from the ungodly

And crushed the arm of the arrogant?

“Have you come upon the fountain of the sea

And walked in the tracks of the deep?

Do the gates of death open to you for fear,

And did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven?

Tell Me now, what is the extent of it?

“In what kind of land does the light dwell,

And what kind is the place of darkness?

If you would bring Me to their boundaries,

And also if you understand their paths,

Then I know you were born at that time,

And the number of your years is great.

“Have you come upon the storehouses of snow?

Have you seen the storehouses of hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of your enemies,

For the day of wars and battles?

From where does the frost proceed?

From where does the south wind scatter over the earth?

“Who prepared a course for the violent rain

Or a path for the thunders?

Who causes it to rain on a land where there is no man,

Or an uninhabited wilderness, where there is not a man in it,

To satisfy the untrodden and uninhabited land

And cause it to spring forth a crop of tender grass?

Who is the rain’s father,

And who has begotten the drops of dew?

From whose womb comes the ice,

And who has given birth to the frost in heaven,

Which descends like flowing water?

Who made firm the face of the abyss?

“Do you understand the band of the Pleiades,

And have you opened the fence of Orion?

Will you open up Mazzaroth in its season,

And the evening star with his rays?

Will you guide them?

Do you know the movements of heaven

Or the events which take place together under heaven?

“Will you call a cloud with your voice,

And will it obey you with a violent shower of much rain?

Can you send out lightnings, and they shall go?

They shall say to you, ‘What do you want?’

Who has given to women wisdom in weaving

Or knowledge of embroidery?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:10-15:2

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.’*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all. And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:5-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:22-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

fter some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:18-32

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Instruction guards righteous ways of life,

But instruction incapable of criticism goes astray.

Righteous lips cover hatred,

But those who bring forth abuse are very lacking in discernment.

You will not escape sin by a multitude of words,

But you of discreet lips will be forbearing.

The tongue of a righteous man is silver tried in the fire,

But the heart of an ungodly man shall fail.

The lips of righteous men understand lofty things,

But men without discernment die in want.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man;

It enriches him, and grief of heart will not be added to it.

A man without discernment does evil things with laughter,

But wisdom gives birth to discernment in a man.

The ungodly man is carried about in destruction,

But the desire of the righteous man is acceptable.

The ungodly man is destroyed by the passing storm,

But the righteous man turns aside and shall be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is a lawless woman to the men who use her.

The fear of the Lord increases days,

But the years of the ungodly will be shortened.

Gladness continues for the righteous,

But the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is the stronghold of a holy man,

But destruction is for those who work evil.

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 49:6b-10

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

\*[Indeed He says, ‘It is a great thing for You to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the dispersion of Israel.]\* Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: “Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord’s sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, ‘Go forth,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Reveal yourselves.’ They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener, found in Ottawa and Southern United States.

##### Job 38:37-39:30

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who can number the clouds by wisdom,

And who bowed heaven down to earth?

For it is spread like a cloud of dust,

And I have joined it together as one hewn stone to another.

“Will you hunt prey for the lions

Or satisfy the lives of the serpents?

They fear in their dens,

And live in the forests, and lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?

For its young ones wander

And cry to the Lord in search of food.

“Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young,

And do you mark when the deer gives birth?

Do you number the full months of childbearing,

And have you relieved their pangs?

Have you reared their young without fear,

And have you sent away their pangs?

Their young ones will break forth;

They will be multiplied with offspring;

They depart and do not return.

Who set the wild donkey free?

Who loosed his bonds?

I made the wilderness his dwelling

And the salt lands his house.

He scorns the great multitude of the city;

He does not heed the blame of the tax collector.

He will survey the mountains as his pasture,

And he seeks out every green thing.

Will the wild ox be willing to serve you?

Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind his yoke with ropes,

Or will he plow furrows for you in the field?

Do you trust him because his strength is great?

Or will you commit your works to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your seed

And gather it to your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork’s?

For the falcon leaves her eggs on the ground

And warms them in the dust.

She has forgotten that a foot will scatter them,

Or that wild animals will trample them.

She hardens herself against her young ones

As though they were not hers.

She labors in vain without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom

And did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high,

She scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with a mane?

Have you put on him a suit of armor

And made his breast glorious with courage?

He paws exultingly in the valley

And goes forth with strength into the plain.

He mocks at battle when he sees it,

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against him,

And his rage would destroy the earth.

He will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

For at the blast of the trumpet he says, ‘Good! Well done!’

He smells the battle from afar with its leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk remain steady by your understanding,

And spread its rigid wings looking toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command,

And the vulture remain sitting over its nest

On the crag of a hidden rock?

From there it spies out the prey;

Its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones roll themselves in blood;

And where the slain are, immediately they are found.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 5:1-15

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not set your heart on your possessions,

And do not say, “I am independent.”

Do not follow yourself and your strength

So as to walk in the desires of your heart;

And do not say, “Who will be lord over me?”

For the Lord will surely punish you.

Do not say, “I sinned, so what happened to me?”

For the Lord is patient.

Do not be so confident of atonement

That you add sin to sin;

And do not say, “His compassion is great;

He will atone for the multitude of my sins,”

For both mercy and wrath come from Him;

And His anger rests on sinners.

Do not delay to turn to the Lord,

And do not put it off from day to day;

For suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come forth,

And in the day of vengeance, you will perish.

Do not set your heart on dishonest wealth,

For it will profit you nothing in the day of distress.

Do not winnow with every wind

And do not follow every road;

For a double-tongued sinner is of such a kind.

Be established in your understanding

And let your word be consistent.

Be quick to listen

And give your answer with patience.

If you have understanding, answer your neighbor,

But if not, let your hand be over your mouth.

There is glory and dishonor in speech,

And a man’s tongue may cause him to fall.

Do not be called a slanderer,

And do not lie in ambush with your tongue;

For shame awaits a thief,

And a grievous condemnation will come upon

A double-tongued man.

In a great or in a small matter, do not go wrong.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:5-17

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even

more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation\*[; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him]\*.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener. Found in Ottawa and Southern United States.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:32-11:11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

The lips of righteous men distill grace,

But the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is acceptable to Him.

Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor,

But the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,

But the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy.

Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths,

But ungodliness embraces wrongdoing.

The righteousness of upright men delivers them,

But lawless men are taken to their destruction.

When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish,

But the boast of the ungodly perishes.

A righteous man escapes from a snare,

But the ungodly man is handed over in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly,

But the perception of the righteous is prosperous.

A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous,

But it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.

A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt,

But a man of discernment keeps quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 58:1-11a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’ Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast,” says the Lord; “rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, ‘Behold, I am here.’ If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. Your bones shall be enriched, and you shall be like a well-watered garden and like a spring of water that does not fail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 40:1-41:26

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover the Lord God answered Job and said:

“Will anyone pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

He who rebukes God will answer for it.”

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“Why am I still judged and admonished,

Even if I rebuke the Lord, hear such things, and am nothing?

But what answer will I give to these things?

I will put my hand over my mouth.

I have spoken once.

I will not do so a second time.”

The Lord yet answered Job out of the cloud and said:

“No rather, gird up your waist like a man,

For I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Do you not reject My judgment?

Do you think I have dealt with you in any other way

Than might appear to you to be righteous?

Have you an arm like the Lord’s?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now majesty and power,

And clothe yourself with glory and honor.

Send forth messengers with wrath

And humble every insolent man.

Extinguish the arrogant man

And consume at once the ungodly.

Hide them together in the earth

And fill their faces with disgrace.

Then I will also admit

That your own right hand can save you.

“But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

Behold now, his strength is in his loins,

And his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;

His nerves are tightly knit.

His ribs are like ribs of bronze,

And his backbone like bars of iron.

This is the ruler of the Lord’s creation,

Made to be mocked at by His angels.

When he goes up to a rough mountain,

He causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

1He lies under trees of every kind,

Alongside the papyrus, and reed, and bulrush.

The great trees shade him with their branches;

So do the branches of the willow.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

He is confident, though the Jordan beats against his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes,

Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Will you catch the serpent with a hook

And put a halter about his nose?

Or will you fasten a ring in his nose

Or pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he speak to you in prayer,

Softly with the voice of a suppliant?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird,

Or will you cage him as a sparrow for a child?

Do the nations feed upon him?

Will they apportion him among the nations of the Phoenicians?

All the ships come together would not be able

To bear the mere skin of his tail,

Or carry his head with fishing vessels.

Once you lay your hand on him,

Remembering the battle waged by his mouth,

Let it not be done again.

“Have you not seen him?

Have you not wondered at what has been said of him?

Do you not fear because I am prepared?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me and endure,

Since everything under heaven is Mine?

“I will not be silent because of him,

Though because of his power, one shall pity his antagonist.

Who will remove his outer coat?

Who may enter within the fold of his breastplate?

Who will open the doors of his face,

With his terrible teeth all around?

His entrails are as brazen plates,

And the texture of his skin as a symrite stone.

One part clings to another

So no air comes between them.

A man will be joined to his brother.

They stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light,

And his eyes are like the appearance of the morning star.

Out of his mouth go burning lights;

Sparks of fire shoot out.

Smoke goes out of his nostrils

As from a boiling pot with fire of coals.

His breath kindles coals,

And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Strength dwells in his neck,

And destruction runs before him.

The muscles of his body are joined together.

They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone,

And it stands like an unyielding anvil.

When he turns, he is a terror

To the four-footed wild animals which leap upon the earth.

Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail;

Nor does spear or javelin.

He regards iron as straw,

And bronze as rotten wood.

The arrow cannot wound him;

The sling-stone becomes like grass to him.

Hammers are regarded as straw,

And he laughs at the threat of javelins.

His bed is like sharp skewers,

And all the gold of the sea under him

Is like a great amount of clay.

He makes the deep boil like a brazen pot,

And he regards the sea like a pot of ointment.

The lowest part of the deep is as a captive.

He reckons the deep as his walking range.

On earth there is nothing like him,

Who was made to be mocked at by My angels.

He beholds every high thing;

He is king over all that are in the waters.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

When temptations come, let no one say, “I am tempted by God,” because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:23-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 11:11-26

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves,

But there is salvation in much counsel.

A wicked man does evil whenever he meets a righteous man,

And he hates the sound of stability.

A thankful woman raises up glory to her husband,

But a throne of dishonor is a woman who hates righteousness.

Lazy men are in need of wealth,

But courageous men support themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his soul,

But an unmerciful man utterly destroys his body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous works,

But the seed of the righteous is a reward of truth.

A righteous son is begotten unto life,

But the persecution of an ungodly man is unto death.

Perverse ways are an abomination to the Lord,

But all who are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him.

He who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished,

But he who sows righteousness will receive a faithful reward.

Like a ring in the nose of a wild swine,

So is beauty to an evil-minded woman.

Every desire of the righteous is good,

But the hope of the ungodly is destruction.

There are those who sow their own things and produce more things,

And there are those who gather but have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

But an angry man is not graceful.

May the one who hoards grain leave it to the nations,

But may blessing be upon the head of the one who shares it.

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 65:8-16a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord: “As the grape shall be found in a cluster, and they shall say, ‘Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing from the Lord in it,’ so shall I do for the sake of him who serves Me. For his sake I will not destroy them all. I will bring forth the seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah, and they shall inherit My holy mountain. My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there. There shall be in the forest a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for the resting place of herds for My people who sought Me. But you are those who forsook Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill a drink-offering to Fortune. I will deliver you to the sword, and all of you shall fall in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed.”

Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:1-6

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know You can do all things,

And nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he who hides counsel from You?

Who keeps back his words

And thinks to hide them from You?

Who will tell me what I knew not,

Things too great and wonderful, which I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

I will ask You, and please teach Me.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I depreciate myself, and I waste away.

I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 6:8-7:20 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I shall encamp in this specific place.” Then Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, saying, “Be careful not to pass this place, for the Syrians are hidden there.” In response, the king of Israel sent someone to this place which Elisha warned about, and thereby kept careful watch over the Syrians on more than two occasions. As a result, the king of Syria became troubled as to what was happening. He called his officers and said to them, “Will you not tell me who gives advance warning of our movements to the king of Israel?” And one of his officers said, “No one, O lord my king. It is Elisha the prophet in Israel that tells the words you speak in your bedroom to the king of Israel.” So he said, “Go, see where this man is, and I will send and kidnap him.”

They sent word to him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” So he sent horses and chariots and a great army that arrived at night to surround the city. When Elisha’s servant arose early and went out, the army was there, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “O master, what shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are greater in number than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see.” And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he was now able to see, and he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then the Syrians marched toward him, and Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike these people with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. So Elisha said to them, “This is not the city nor is this the way to it. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you seek.” But he led them away to Samaria. So it came to be when they arrived in Samaria, Elisha said, “Lord, open their eyes and let them see.” Thus the Lord completely restored their ability to see. And behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “O father, shall I not strike to kill them?” But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you took captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their lord.” Then he prepared a great feast for them, and after they ate and drank, he dismissed them and they departed to their lord. So lightly armed raiding parties of Syrians no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it came to pass that after this, the son of Hadad king of Syria gathered all the troops of his army and went up and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed they besieged it even to the point where the value placed on the head of a donkey was fifty shekels of silver, and two quarts of dove droppings cost five shekels of silver. As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Save me, my lord, O king!” And he said, “If the Lord does not save you from the threshing floor or from the winepress, how can I save you?” Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give us your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I told her, ‘Give me your son so that we may eat him,’ but she hid her son.”

Now when the king heard the woman’s words, he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw that underneath his clothes he wore sackcloth on his body. Then he said, “God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha remains on him today.”

Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him, when the king sent a man ahead of him. But before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Do you see that this son of a murderer was sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and keep him on the outside of the door. Is that not the sound of his master’s feet behind him?” While yet talking with them, behold the messenger came down towards him; and the king said, “Listen! This evil is of the Lord, so why should I remain patient in the Lord?”

Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: ‘About this time tomorrow, at the gate of Samaria a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and for a shekel, two measures of barley.’ ” So the officer on whose hand the king relied retorted to Elisha and said, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven will make a downpour of rain, this event shall not happen.” And Elisha said, “Behold, you shall see this with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

Now at the entrance of the gate there were four leprous men. And one of them said to his neighbor, “Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, ‘Let us go into the city,’ and there is famine in the city, we will die there. And if we sit here in this place, then we will die. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall die.” So they rose in the darkness to head to the army camp of the Syrians. They entered the outskirts of the army camp and no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, the noises of a very great army. For the Lord made the army of Syria say to one another, “Look, the king of Israel hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” So they arose in the darkness and quietly fled for their lives, leaving their tents, their horses, and their donkeys at the campsite.

And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away from it silver and gold and clothing. Then they left and came back to enter another tent to take from there and to hide the spoils. And one said to the others, “This is not right. This day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent and wait until the light of morning, we will find wickedness in the city. Now come here! Let us enter the city and deliver this good news to the house of the king.” So they went and cried out with a loud voice toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, “We entered the army camp of Syria and behold, no one was there, not a man nor a human voice. The only things there were the tied-up horses and donkeys, and their tents, which they left intact.”

Then the gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the house of the king inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “Now I will inform you as to what the Syrians are doing. They know we are hungry. Therefore they went out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive and capture the city.’ ”

Then one of his servants answered and said, “Indeed! Let them now take five of the remaining horses, of all that remain of the multitude of Israel, and send them there to see.” Therefore they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent them after the king of Syria, saying, “Go and see.” And they went after them even to the Jordan. Indeed all along the way, the road was full of garments and vessels which the Syrians themselves cast away in the panic. So the messengers returned and brought word to the king. Then the people went out and plundered the army camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, true to the word of the Lord.

Now the king had appointed the officer, the one on whose hand the king relied, to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God said who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha said to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.” Then the officer had answered Elisha with this retort, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven should make a downpour of rain, this sort of thing would never happen.” Then Elisha had answered, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” And so it was in this way; for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-24

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:23-26:6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Last Friday of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 49:33-50:26

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Now Joseph fell on his father’s face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.’ ” Then Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians.” Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph’s brothers saw their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him.” So they came to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ ” Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

So Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households.” Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart.

So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, “I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 11:26-12:24

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

He who trusts in riches, this man will fall,

But he who helps the righteous, this man will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

And a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment.

A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness,

But the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time.

If the righteous man is scarcely saved,

Then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

But he who hates correction is without discernment.

He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better,

But a lawless man will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by lawlessness,

But the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are judgments,

But the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are deceitful,

But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

If he does not turn, an ungodly man is destroyed,

But the houses of the righteous remain.

The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man,

But the slothful of heart are treated with contempt.

It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself

Than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

But the affections of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread,

But those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time

Shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

But the roots of the godly are in strongholds.

By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares,

But a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will show mercy,

But he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things,

And the recompense of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes,

But a wise man hearkens to counsels.

A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath,

But an astute man hides his own dishonor.

A righteous man declares his honesty openly,

But the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful.

There are those who wound with a sword as they speak,

But the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

But a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue.

There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things,

But those who counsel peace shall be glad.

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 66:10-24

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders and comforted on knees. Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord’s hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient.

For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger and His renunciation with a flame of fire. For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. “Those who purify and cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time,” says the Lord; “and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades, to the holy city of Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites,” says the Lord. “For just as the new heaven and the new earth which I make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your seed and your name remain. It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem,” says the Lord. “They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:7-17

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “You have sinned, you and your two friends, for you have not spoken before Me what is true, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you. For I will only accept him, but for his sake, I would have destroyed you; because you have not spoken what is true regarding my servant Job.” So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and He redeemed their sin for Job’s sake.

Then the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends, and He forgave their sin. But the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then all his brothers and all his sisters heard about everything that happened to him, and they came to him. So did all who knew him from the first. They ate food and drank with him and comforted him; and they wondered at all the Lord brought upon him. Each one gave him a lamb and four drachms’ weight of uncoined gold.

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first, Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia’s Horn. In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 3:1-4:5

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But know that in the last days, troubled times will come. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful and unholy. [They will be] without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, no lovers of good, treacherous, stubborn, self-important, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having an appearance of godliness but having rejected its [inner] meaning. Stay away from these people too. Indeed, some of these creep into houses and captivate gullible women who are burdened with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Even as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, these people also oppose the truth. They are mentally corrupted and as far as the faith is concerned, they are rejected. But they will not go very far because their folly will be evident to all, as in the case of Jannes and Jambres.

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know what happened to me at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I endured those persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned whichis what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-16a

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:1-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!”

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

# Great and Holy Week

## Lazarus Saturday

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 49:1-28

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

“Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,

And listen to Israel your father.

“Reuben, you are my firstborn,

My might and the beginning of my children;

You are hard to bear;

You are hardened in your self-will.

Unstable as water in your insolence,

You went up to your father’s bed;

Then you defiled it.

“Simeon and Levi are brothers;

They accomplished their injustice from their free choice.

Let not my soul enter their council;

Let not my honor be united to their assembly;

For in their anger they slew a man,

And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

Cursed be their anger, for it was self-willed;

And their wrath, for it was hardened.

I will divide them in Jacob,

And scatter them in Israel.

Now Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

“Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,

And listen to Israel your father.

“Reuben, you are my firstborn,

My might and the beginning of my children;

You are hard to bear;

You are hardened in your self-will.

Unstable as water in your insolence,

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Let not my honor be united to their assembly;

For in their anger they slew a man,

And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

Cursed be their anger, for it was self-willed;

And their wrath, for it was hardened.

I will divide them in Jacob,

And scatter them in Israel.

“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise;

Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;

Your father’s sons shall bow down before you.

Judah is a lion’s cub;

From being a shoot, my son, you have grown up.

He bows down, and slept as a lion and a cub;

And who shall rouse him?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah,

Nor a lawgiver from his loins,

Until Shiloh comes;

And to Him shall be the expectation of the nations.

Binding his colt to a vine,

And his donkey’s colt to its branch,

He will wash his garments in wine,

And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

His eyes are gladdened from the wine,

And his teeth are whiter than milk.

“Zebulun shall dwell by the seacoast;

He shall be near a haven for ships,

And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

“Issachar. desired what was good,

Resting between the inheritances;

And seeing his resting place was good

And the land was fertile,

He set his shoulder to hard work,

And became a farmer.

“Dan shall judge his own people

As one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan shall be a serpent by the way,

A viper lying in ambush by the path,

That bites the horse’s heels,

That its rider may fall backward,

Waiting for the Lord’s salvation.

“As for Gad, a raider gang shall raid him,

But he shall raid them in close pursuit.

“As for Asher, his food shall be abundant,

And he will furnish dainties for rulers.

“Naphtali is a spreading stem,

Bestowing beauty by its produce.

“Joseph is a grown-up son,

A grown-up son that was envied.

Oh my youngest son, return to me.

They devised evil plans against him and reviled him,

And the archers were taking aim at him.

But their bows were broken by force,

And the sinews of the arms of their hands were enfeebled

On account of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob.

Thence, he who strengthened Israel

Is from the God of your father,

And my God has helped you and blessed you

With a blessing from heaven above

And with a blessing of the earth containing everything.

By reason of the blessing of breasts and the womb,

He made the blessings of your father and mother

Stronger than the blessings of stable mountains and everlasting hills.

They shall be on the head of Joseph

And on the crown of the brothers he led.

“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;

In the morning he will still be eating,

And in the evening he will provide food.”

All these are the twelve sons of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them and blessed them; and he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:9-31

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God.” Behold, the Lord is coming with strength, and His arm is with authority. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.

Who measured the water in His hand, and heaven with a span, and all the earth with a handful? Who weighed the mountains in scales and the vales in a balance? Who knows the Lord’s mind, and who was His counselor; who advises Him? Or with whom does He take counsel, who instructs Him, and who teaches Him judgment and shows Him the way of understanding? The nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the balance of a scale; and they are counted as spittle. Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its four-footed animals sufficient for a whole burnt offering. All nations are as nothing and are counted as nothing. To whom then will you liken the Lord, and to what likeness will you compare Him? Has the workman made an image, or has the goldsmith overspread it with gold, gilding it, making a likeness of Him? For the workman chooses wood that will not rot, and skillfully seeks to prepare a carved image that will not totter. Will you not know? Will you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Do you not know the foundations of the earth? It is He who possesses the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out heaven like a vault, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He makes the rulers He establishes to rule to be as nothing; He makes the earth as nothing. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. “Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice.

For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying, “My way is hidden from God, and my God took away my judgment and departed”? So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zephaniah 3:14-20

From the book of Zephaniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. I shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her?

“Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake,” says the Lord. “I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth. And they shall be put to shame in that day when I do well with you, at the time when I shall receive you, for I will make you praised and renowned among all the peoples of the earth when I return your captivity,” says the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zechariah 9:9-15a

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Proclaim it aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is righteous and saving; He is gentle and mounted upon a donkey, even a young foal. He will utterly destroy the chariots out of Ephraim and the horse out of Jerusalem. The bow of war shall be utterly destroyed, and there shall be abundance and peace among the nations. He shall rule over the waters as far as the sea and over the rivers to the ends of the earth.

“And by the blood of your covenant, you freed your prisoners from the pit having no water. You prisoners from the congregation, you shall live in the fortress, and for one day of your exile, I will repay to you double. For I have bent you, O Judah, for Myself as a bow; I have filled Ephraim. And I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against the sons of the Greeks, and I will handle you as the sword of a warrior.” And the Lord will be over them, and He shall go forth like a lightning bolt. The Lord Almighty shall sound with the trumpet and shall go forth with the tumult of His threat. The Lord Almighty will shield them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 2:1-8

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not stand by human wisdom but in the power of God. However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:6

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:38-28:10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea. When day came, they did not recognize the land but noticed a cove with a beach, and they decided to try to drive the ship onto it. Casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time untying the rudder ropes. Hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But coming to a place with cross-currents, they beached the vessel. The front of the ship struck and remained immovable while the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves.

The soldiers’ advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live.” However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

Now, in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leader of the island, [a man] named Publius who welcomed us and courteously entertained us for three days. It also happened that Publius’ father was bedridden, sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the people who had diseases in the island also came, and they were cured. They honored us in many ways, and when we sailed off, put on board the things that we needed.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## Palm Sunday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:11-28

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (sprinkling those who have been defiled) could sanctify to restore the purity of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to offer divine service to the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the sins that were under the first covenant, so that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where there is a last will and testament, there must also be the death of the one who made it. A will comes into effect after death; it is never in force while the one who made it is still alive. That is why even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”

Moreover, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way, with the blood. According to the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and there is no remission [of sins] if there is no shedding of blood. Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things should be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves [had to be purified] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true [holy places], but into heaven itself in order to appear in the presence of God for us. Yet, this did not take place so that he would offer himself often, as the [Levitical] high priest does when he enters into the holy place year by year, not with their own blood. Otherwise, he would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But now, at the end of the ages, he has been revealed once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed for humans to die once, and after this come the judgment. It is the same with Christ: having been offered once to bear the sins of many, he will appear a second time, apart from sin-offering, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:1-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:11-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Three months later, we set sail in a ship from Alexandria which had wintered in the island, whose figurehead was “The Twin Brothers.” Touching at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. From there, we circled around [the coastline] and arrived at Rhegium. The following day, a south wind sprang up and on the second day, we arrived in Puteoli. There, we found brethren who entreated us to stay with them for seven days. And so, we approached Rome.

From there, having heard of us, the brethren came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. When we reached Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

Three days later, Paul called together those who were the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. After putting me on trial, the Romans wanted to release me because there was no grounds to put me to death. But when the Jews spoke against it, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything about which to accuse my nation. For this reason, therefore, I asked to see you and to speak with you, for it is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

They answered him, “We have not received letters from Judea concerning you, and no brother has come here to make a report or speak any evil of you. But we desire to hear from you what you think because it is known to us that everywhere, people speak against this sect.”

After making an appointment with Paul for a certain day, many more people visited him at his place of residence. From morning until evening, he explained and bore witness about [the things of] the Kingdom of God. He also tried to convince the Jews concerning Jesus, [quoting] both fromthe law of Moses and from the prophets. Some believed what was spoken, and others did not. Although disagreeing among themselves, they left after Paul had spoken one [last] word, “Rightly did the Holy Spirit speak to our fathers through Isaias the prophet, saying:

‘*Go to this people, and say:*

*You will keep on hearing but never understand!*

*You will keep on seeing but never perceive!*

*For this people’s heart has grown callous,*

*Their ears are dull of hearing,*

*And they have closed their eyes,*

*For fear that should see with their eyes, hear with their ears,*

*Understand with their heart, and would repent,*

*And I would heal them.’*

Therefore, you should know that God’s salvation is sent to the nations; they will listen!”

After Paul said these words, the Jews departed with a great dispute among themselves.

So Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house, receiving everyone who came to visit him. With all boldness and without hindrance, he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

#### The Prophecies of the General Burial After Palm Sunday

##### Ezekiel 37:1-14

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. Then He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord, You know this.” Then He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord to these bones: “Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and know that I am the Lord.” ’ ”

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Come from the four winds and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live.” ’ ” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly.

Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it,” says the Lord.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle of the General Burial After Palm Sunday

##### 1 Corinthians 15:1-23

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are no raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive. But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ’s, at his coming.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Prophecies of the Ninth Hour of Palm Sunday

##### Lamentations 1:1-4

From the book of Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass that after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem became desolate, Jeremiah sat weeping; and he lamented this song of grief over Jerusalem and said:

(א) “How does the city now sit alone,

She who was full of people?

She has become like a widow,

She who was multiplied among the nations,

She who was ruling among the countries.

She has become subject to tribute.

(ב) “She weeps bitterly in the night;

She sheds tears on her cheeks.

Yet among all her lovers there is no one who comforts her.

All who love her have dealt treacherously with her.

They have become her enemies.

(ג) “Judea has gone into captivity

Because of her humiliation and harsh servitude.

She dwells among the Gentiles;

She finds no rest.

All who pursue her overtake her in the midst of her distress.

(ד) “The roads of Zion mourn,

Because no one comes to the feast.

All her gates are destroyed,

Her priests groan,

Her virgins are led away,

And she is embittered in herself.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zephaniah 3:11-20

From the book of Zephanaiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, you will not be ashamed of all your practices in which you acted profanely against Me. For at that time I will take away from you the contempt of your arrogance, and you shall no longer be haughty upon My holy mountain. And I will leave among you a gentle and humble people, who will show reverence to the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness nor speak vanities; neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they will feed and lie down, and there will be no one terrifying them.”

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. I shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her?

“Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake,” says the Lord. “I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth. And they shall be put to shame in that day when I do well with you, at the time when I shall receive you, for I will make you praised and renowned among all the peoples of the earth when I return your captivity,” says the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Prophecies of the Eleventh Hour of Palm Sunday

##### Isaias 48:12-22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Listen to Me, O Jacob and Israel, whom I call: I am the first, and I am forever. My hand also laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand established heaven. I shall call them, and they will stand together. All shall be gathered and hear: Who declared these things to them? Because I love you, I did your will against Babylon, to slay the seed of the Chaldeans. I have spoken, I have called him, I have brought him, and made his way prosper. Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning, nor did I speak in a dark place of the earth. When it took place, I was there, and now the Lord and His Spirit have sent Me.” Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: “I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me.”

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, “The Lord delivered His servant Jacob.” If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. “There is no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Nahum 1:2-8

From the book of Nahum the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God is jealous, and the Lord is an avenger; the Lord is avenging with fury; the Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries and drives out His enemies. The Lord is patient and His power is great, but the Lord will not acquit the guilty. His way is in destruction and in a whirlwind; the clouds are the dust of His feet. He threatens the sea and makes it dry, and he dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel have diminished, and the flowers of Lebanon have died out. By Him the mountains are shaken and the hills quake, and the earth heaves at His presence—the whole earth and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can withstand the fierceness of His anger? His fury melts away ruling powers, and He shatters the rocks into pieces.

The Lord is merciful to those who wait on Him in the day of affliction, and He knows those who reverence Him. For with an overwhelming flood He shall make an end to those rising up, and darkness will pursue His enemies.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## Monday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Zephaniah 1:2-12

From the book of Zephaniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Let all things be totally consumed from the face of the earth,” says the Lord. “Let man and cattle cease. Let the birds of the air and the fish of the sea be consumed. I shall drive mankind from the face of the land,” says the Lord. “I shall stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I shall remove the names of Baal from this place and the names of the priests— those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops and who swear oaths by the Lord and who swear oaths by their king—those who turn away from the Lord, neither seeking the Lord nor holding steadfastly to Him.

“Fear before the presence of the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand. The Lord has prepared His sacrifice; He has sanctified His guests. And it shall be in the day of the Lord’s sacrifice that I shall take vengeance on the princes and on the king’s house, and upon all clothed with strange garments. And I will openly take vengeance upon all those in the gates in that day, on those who fill the house of the Lord their God with ungodliness and deceit.

“And in that day,” says the Lord, “there will be from the gate the sound of shouting from men killing, and a wailing from the second gate along with a great destruction from the hills. Mourn, those of you dwelling here, being cut down in pieces; for all the people are like Canaan. All those exalting in silver are utterly destroyed.

“And it shall come to pass in that day that I shall search Jerusalem with a lamp and shall take vengeance on the men having scorned their charge, the ones saying in their hearts, ‘The Lord shall not do any good, nor shall He do any harm.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Third Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Zepheniah 1:14-2:2 (should this be 3?)

From the book of Zepheniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“For the great day of the Lord is near. It is near and quick. The sound of the day of the Lord is bitter and harsh. A mighty day of wrath has been appointed: a day of affliction and distress, a day of unseasonable happenings and destruction, a day of gloom and darkness, a day of cloud and vapor, a day of the trumpet and shouting against the fortified cities and the high towers. I will greatly afflict the men, and they will walk as blind men, for they sinned against the Lord; and He shall pour out their blood as dust and their flesh as dung. Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord, but the whole land shall be consumed by the fire of His zeal; for He will bring about a speedy end to all those who dwell in the land.

“O untaught nation, be gathered together and united to one another, before you become like a flower that passes away, before the anger of the Lord comes upon you, before the day of the wrath of the Lord comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth. Bring about justice, seek righteousness, and give answer to these things, so you may be sheltered in the day of the Lord’s wrath.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Joel 1:5-15

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Get sober, you who are drunk from your wine, and weep, mourn all you who drink wine, for joy and gladness are removed from your mouth. For a nation strong and numberless came up against My land. His teeth are the teeth of a lion and his molars those of a young lion. He laid waste My vine and splintered My fig tree. He diligently searched out and uprooted My vine, peeling off its outer bark.

Mourn before Me more than a virgin bride clothed with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The meat-offering and the drink-offering are removed from the house of the Lord. Mourn, you priests, you who serve at the altar, for the fields languish and the land mourns; for the grain withers, the wine is dried up, and the olive oil is scarce. The farmers are exhausted. Mourn for the sake of your fields of wheat and barley, for the harvest from the field has been lost. The vine is shriveled up, and the fig trees are scarce in number. The pomegranate and the palm tree, the apple tree and all the trees of the field are withered, for they put to shame the delight of the sons of men.

Gird yourself with sackcloth and wail, you priests. Mourn, you who serve at the altar. Go in, sleep in sackcloth, you who minister unto God, for the grain-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather all the elders and all the people of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out fervently to the Lord.

Alas! Alas! Alas! For the day of the Lord draws near, and it will come as misery upon misery.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Micah 2:3-10

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, I am devising evils against this tribe from which you shall not lift up your neck, nor will you suddenly walk upright, for this is a time of evil. In that day a parable shall be taken up against you, and a dirge will be wailed, saying, ‘In misery we have suffered hardship. The portion of my people has been measured out with a measuring line, and there was no one who was able to stop Him. Our fields have been divided among them.’ Therefore there will be no one to put out a measuring line for a lot for you in the assembly of the Lord.

“Do not shed tears, nor even weep over these things; for He will not dismiss the reproaches who says, ‘The house of Jacob has provoked the Spirit of the Lord; are these not His practices? Are not His words good with Him, and have they not proceeded as predicted? And previously, for enmity my people resisted against His peace. They flayed his skin to remove hope in the ravages of war. Therefore those leading my people will be cast out of their luxurious homes; they have been driven out because of their wicked practices. Draw near to the everlasting mountains.’ ”

Arise and depart, for this is not a final resting place for you on account of uncleanness; you have been utterly destroyed by corruption. [You were pursued by no one pursuing!]\*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\* [] part of vs 11 found in Souther United States, but not Kitchener.

### The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Micah 3:1-4

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He will say, “Hear these things, O heads of the house of Jacob, and you remnant of Israel. Is it not for you to know judgment? you who hate good and love evil; you who seize their skins in order flay them and cut their flesh off their bones? who devoured the flesh of my people by removing their skin, breaking their bones, and dividing them as merely flesh for the cauldron and as meat for the pot?”

Thus they will cry out to the Lord, but He will not hear them. Instead, He will turn His face from them at that time because they have done wickedly in their deeds against themselves.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The First Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 1:1-2:3

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day.

Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water”; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day.

Then God said, “Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth.” It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day.

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night. Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth.” It was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the waters bring forth creatures having life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven’s firmament.” It was so. Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth.” So evening and morning were the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind.” It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.” So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them.

Then God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life.” It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:1-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.” For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 1:1-17

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

All wisdom comes from the Lord

And is with Him forever.

Who can count the sand of the seas,

The drops of rain, and the days of eternity?

Who can search out the height of heaven,

The breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom?

Wisdom was created before all things,

And the insight of prudence was from eternity.

To whom has the root of wisdom been revealed?

And who has come to know her great deeds?

There is one who is wise and is feared exceedingly,

He who sits upon His throne.

The Lord Himself created wisdom.

He saw and numbered her

And poured her out on all His works,

In the midst of all flesh according to His gift;

And He provided her for those who love Him.

The fear of the Lord is glory and boasting,

And gladness and a crown of rejoicing.

The fear of the Lord will cheer the heart

And will give gladness, joy, and long life.

For those who fear the Lord, it shall be well to the utmost,

And on the day of his death, he will be blessed.

The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And she was joined with the faithful in the womb.

She constructed a foundation of life among men

And will be trusted among their seed.

The gratification of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And she intoxicates them with her fruits.

She will fill every house of theirs with objects of desire

And their storehouses with her harvest.

The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom,

Making peace and soundness of health to flourish.

The Lord saw and numbered her,

And poured out the power of comprehension;

And He exalted the glory of those who hold fast to her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Southern United States, lacking in Kitchener.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

Brethren, if we wish to escape from the retribution of God, and find mercy before Him, let us sit at the end of every day alone, by ourselves, after dinner. Let us then search ourselves concerning what we have offered to the angel who is accompanying us to serve us, that he may bring up to the Lord.

Again, when the night is over and the morning has broken, let us search ourselves alone, to find out what we have offered to the angel to whom we were entrusted, that he may offer up to the Lord. We should have no doubt that every one, whether he be male or female, young or old, who has been baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, has been assigned an angel from God, that accompanies him until the day of his departure.

This angel ascends unto God every day that he may bring up to God the deeds, done in the day or through the night, by the person entrusted to him. Not that God is ignorant of our deeds— God forbid! For He is all-knowing, as it is also written, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”1 Rather the angels are ministering spirits created by God, the Creator of all, for the sake of those about to inherit salvation.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen

1 Proverbs 15:3

### The Third Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 5:20-30

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Consequently He shall take up a banner to the nations from afar and will whistle to them from the ends of the earth. Behold, they are coming swiftly and with speed. They shall not hunger or be weary. Neither shall they slumber nor sleep. Nor shall they loose the belts from their loins. Neither shall their sandal-straps be broken. Their arrows are sharp, and their bows are bent. The hooves of their horses seem like flint and their chariot-wheels like a sudden blast of wind. They rush like lions, and stand like a young lion that seizes his prey and roars like a wild animal, then carries it away; and there shall be no one to deliver them. In that day, they will bellow against them like the sound of the roaring sea. They will look at the land and behold harsh darkness in their despair.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Jeremiah 9:11-18a

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is a wise man? Let him understand this. Let him declare to you by the word of the Lord to him why the land was ravaged by fire, and became like a desert no one could pass through. The Lord answered me, “Because they forsook My law which I set before their face, and they did not hear My voice. Instead, they walked after what pleased their evil heart, and after the idols their fathers taught them.” Therefore, thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them as a matter of necessity, and give them the water of bitterness to drink. I will also scatter them among the Gentiles, amongst whom neither they nor their fathers are known. I shall send a sword after them until I consume them with it.”

Thus says the Lord: “Call for the mourning women and let them come. Send for the wise women and let them give utterance. Let them take up a lamentation over you. Let your eyes run with tears, and your eyelids flow with water. For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 32:7-15

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But the Lord said to Moses, “Go quickly! Get down from here! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt are transgressing the law. They turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them. They made themselves a calf and are worshiping and sacrificing to it, and are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ Now therefore, let Me be, that I may burn in wrath against them and consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation.” But Moses prayed before the Lord God and said, “Why, O Lord, does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak and say, ‘He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath and be merciful to the wickedness of Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself and said to them, ‘I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven for multitude; and all this land I spoke about to give their seed, they shall inherit unto the ages.’ ” So the Lord granted mercy for the harm He said He would do to His people.

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands. They were stone tablets written on both sides, on one side and on the other.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Wisdom 1:1-9

From the book of the Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Love righteousness, you who judge on the earth.

Think about the Lord in goodness

And seek Him with sincerity of heart;

Because He is found by those who do not tempt Him,

And He is manifest to those who do not disbelieve Him.

For dishonest reasoning separates people from God,

And when His power examines someone,

It convicts the undiscerning;

For wisdom will not enter the soul that plots evil,

Nor will it dwell in a body involved in sin.

For a holy spirit of discipline flees from deceit

And sends away undiscerning reasoning;

It will put wrongdoing to shame when it comes near.

For wisdom is a spirit that loves mankind,

But she will punish a blasphemer because of his words;

For God is the witness of his thoughts,

The true examiner of his heart, and the hearer of his tongue;

Because the Spirit of the Lord fills the world,

And He who holds all things together knows what is said.

Therefore no one who speaks unrighteous things

Will escape notice,

Nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

For there shall be a close examination

Into the deliberations of an ungodly man,

And a report of his words will come to the Lord

As proof of his lawlessness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 2:15-3:24

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord God took the man He formed and put him in the garden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, “You may eat food from every tree in the garden; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat; for in whatever day you eat from it, you shall die by death.”

And the Lord God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Also, God formed out of the ground all the wild animals of the field and all the birds of heaven, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Thus whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all the cattle, to all the birds of heaven, and to all the wild animals of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.” Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on the earth. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat from every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden; but from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of the two were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Then they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden that afternoon, and Adam and his wife hid themselves within the tree in the middle of the garden from the presence of the Lord God. So the Lord God called Adam and said to him, “Adam, where are you?” He replied, “I heard Your voice as You were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” Thus He said, “Who said you were naked? Have you eaten from the one tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” Then Adam said, “The woman You gave me, gave me of the tree, and I ate.”So the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Thus the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than all the wild animals of the earth. On your breast and belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel.”

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain and your groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse will be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you heeded the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground in your labors. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return.” So Adam called his wife’s name Life, because she was the mother of all living.

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made garments of skin, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. Now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of pleasure to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He cast out Adam, and made him dwell opposite the garden of pleasure. He then stationed the cherubim and the fiery sword which turns every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-5

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 1:1-10

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David,

Who reigned in Israel,

To know wisdom and instruction,

And to understand words of discernment;

To receive both subtlety of words,

And to understand true righteousness and upright judgment;

So as to give astuteness to the simple,

And both perception and understanding to a young man;

For a wise man who hears these things will be wiser,

And the man of understanding will gain direction.

He will understand both a parable and a hidden saying,

Both wise words and riddles.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,

And there is good understanding in all who practice it;

And godliness toward God is the beginning of perception,

But the ungodly despise wisdom and instruction.

Hear, my son, the instruction of your father,

And do not reject the laws of your mother.

For you will receive a crown of grace on your head

And a gold chain around your neck.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 50:1-3

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord: “Of what quality is your mother’s certificate of divorce, by which I put her away? Or to which debtor have I sold you? Behold, you are sold for your sins, and for your lawlessness I put away your mother. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to obey? Is My hand unable to deliver? Or have I no strength to deliver? Behold, with My rebuke I dry up the sea, and I turn rivers into deserts; and because there is no water, their fish dry up and die of thirst. I clothe heaven with darkness and make its covering like sackcloth.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 1:18-27

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And her branches are length of days.

Unjust anger cannot be justified,

For anger’s decisive influence causes his fall.

A patient man will hold fast until the proper time,

Then afterwards gladness shall burst forth for him.

He shall conceal his words until the proper time,

And the lips of many will tell of his understanding.

In the treasures of wisdom are the parables of knowledge,

But godliness is an abomination to a sinner.

If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments,

And the Lord will supply it to you.

For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction,

And His good pleasure is faith and gentleness.

Do not disobey the fear of the Lord,

And do not come to Him with a divided heart.

Do not be a hypocrite in the sight of men,

And be careful with your lips.

Do not exalt yourself, lest you fall

And bring dishonor to your soul.

The Lord shall reveal your secrets,

And in the midst of the assembly He will strike you down,

Because you did not come in the fear of the Lord

And your heart was full of deceit.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

There are deeds that seem to us good, but they are evil before God: As when we see someone who sins in the holy places and we, by being patient with him, make him continue in his evil. For God did not plant in Paradise good and bad trees, but rather planted good and fruitful trees only. Not only that, but the man Whom He put in Paradise, when he disobeyed, He did not ignore what he did, but drove him out of it.

From this, we know, my beloved brethren, that the holy houses of God should not be filled with both good and evil people, even as the world which is filled with sinners and saints. Rather, admonish every one that behaves unseemly in the house of God. I know that the whole earth is the Lord’s, but if we treat His house as the rest of the earth, what then distinguishes it from every place else? And if I, as a priest do the same evil that the wicked of the world do, then I have no right to be called a priest.

Many times we sin and yet do not know how to condemn ourselves. No one will dare to fill your house with dirt except he perceives that you are complacent. And the door keepers of the king will not dare to bring into his house everyone whether he be a keeper of his commandments or a breaker of them, except with his orders. And those who act otherwise shall be punished.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

## Tuesday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Zechariah 1:1-6

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

1In the eighth month of the second year of the reign of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, son of Berechiah, son of Addo the prophet, saying, 2“The Lord has been very angry with your fathers, 3and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord Almighty: “Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord, 4“And do not become like your fathers, whom the former prophets accused, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord Almighty: “Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ ” But they did not pay attention or heed Me,” says the Lord.

5“Your fathers—where are they? And the prophets—will they live forever? 6But receive My words and My ordinances as I commanded by My Spirit to My servants the prophets who overtook your fathers.” And they answered and said, “As the Lord Almighty determined to deal with us, according to our ways and according to our practices, thus He dealt with us.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Third Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Malachi 1:1-9

From the book of Malachi the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by the hand of His messenger Malachi. Take it to heart!

“I have loved you,” says the Lord. “But you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’ Was not Esau the brother of Jacob?” says the Lord. “Yet Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated, and I have appointed his borders for destruction and made his heritage as dwellings of the wilderness.” Because one will say, “Edom has been destroyed, but let us return and rebuild the desolate places,” thus says the Lord, Ruler of all: “They may build, but I will throw down. They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord has placed Himself forever. Your eyes will see, and you will say, ‘The Lord is magnified beyond the borders of Israel.’

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?” says the Lord Almighty. “You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, ‘In what way have we disparaged Your name?’ You offer defiled bread on My altar, but you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept these from you?” says the Lord Almighty.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Hosea 4:15-5:7

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“But you, O Israel, be not ignorant,

And do not go, men of Judah, to Gilgal;

And do not go up to Beth Aven

Nor swear by the living Lord.

For Israel was maddened like a mad heifer;

Now the Lord will feed them

Like a lamb in a wide place.

Ephraim, joined with idols,

Has laid stumbling blocks in his own way.

He has chosen the Canaanites;

They have grievously gone a-whoring;

They have loved dishonor through her rudeness.

You are a blast of wind in her wings,

And they shall be ashamed because of their altars.

“Hear these things, O priests,

And attend, O house of Israel!

Listen, O house of the king!

For judgment is with you

Because you have been a snare in Mizpah

And a net spread on Tabor,

Which they that hunt the prey have fixed;

But I will be your instructor.

I know Ephraim, and Israel is not far from Me;

For now Ephraim has gone grievously a-whoring;

Israel is defiled.

“Their deliberations did not allow them

To return to their God,

For a spirit of fornication is in them,

And they have not gotten to know the Lord.

The arrogance of Israel

Shall be brought low before His face,

And Israel and Ephraim shall become weak

Due to their wrongdoings;

And Judah also shall become weak with them.

“They shall go with sheep and calves

Diligently to seek the Lord;

But they shall not find Him,

For He has withdrawn Himself from them.

For they have forsaken the Lord

Because strange children have been born to them.

Now the rust shall devour them along with their heritages.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Hosea 10:12-11:2

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness;

Gather in the fruit of life;

Light for yourselves the light of knowledge;

Seek the Lord till the fruits of righteousness come upon you.

Why have you passed over ungodliness in silence

And reaped its wrongdoings?

You have eaten the fruit of deception,

For you have hoped in your chariots,

In the abundance of your power.

Therefore destruction shall rise up among your people,

And all your walled places shall be gone,

As Beth Arbel in the time of Prince Shalman.

In the days of battle,

They dashed the mother to the ground upon the children.

Thus will I do to you, O house of Israel,

Because of your evil deeds.

Early in the morning were they cast off;

The king of Israel has been cast off.

“For Israel is a child, and I loved him,

And out of Egypt I have called his children.

As I called them,

So they departed from My presence.

They sacrificed to the Baals,

And burned incense to graven images.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Amos 5:6-14a

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Seek the Lord and live, lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph and devour it, with no one to extinguish the fire for the house of Israel. The Lord is He who brings about justice on high and righteousness on the earth!

“He makes all things. He transforms the darkness into the morning and makes the day dark as night; He calls forth the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name. He rains ruin upon the strong and brings misery upon the fortress.

“They hated him who reproved in the gates and abhorred the upright word. They tread upon the poor and take bribes from him. They built houses of hewn stone, yet they shall not dwell in them. They planted pleasant vineyards, but they shall not drink wine from them. For I know your many transgressions and the enormity of your sins, devouring the righteous and taking bribes, turning away the poor at the gate. Because of this, the prudent keep silent in this time, for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil so that you may live.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The First Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 19:1-9

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now in the third month after the children of Israel departed from the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came into the Sinai Desert. For they departed from Rephidim, came into the Sinai Desert, and camped in the desert. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

Then Moses went up to the mountain of God, and God called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be a special people to Me above all nations; for all the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation.’ These are the words you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered with one accord and said, “Everything the Lord said we will do and hearken to.” So Moses reported these words to God. The Lord then said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the pillar of cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you forever.” So Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 23:2-24:25

From the book of Job the Rigtheous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Indeed, I know pleading is out of my reach,

For His hand is heavy upon my groaning.

Who then would know, that I might find Him,

And might bring this matter to an end?

I would state my case before Him

And fill my mouth with arguments.

Would that I knew the words He would answer me

And could understand what He would tell me.

Though He would come on me in His great strength,

He would not use the occasion to threaten me.

For truth and rebuke are from Him,

And He would bring my judgment to an end.

“Though I should proceed to this important end

Until I no longer exist,

Still what would I know about the last things?

When He worked on the left hand,

I could not understand it.

His right hand will encompass me,

But I will not see it.

For He knows my way already,

And He has weighed me as gold.

I will go forth in His commandments;

For I have kept His ways and will not turn aside.

I will not disregard His commandments;

But I have hidden His words in my bosom.

“If He too has thus judged,

Who is he that has opposed Him?

Whatever He has willed, that He has done.

Therefore I pursue Him zealously,

And when I was instructed, I thought of Him.

Therefore let me be serious before His face.

I will consider and be afraid of Him.

For the Lord softened my heart,

And the Almighty has alarmed me.

For I did not know darkness would come upon me,

But thick darkness covered my face.

“Why have the times escaped the Lord’s notice?

“Why have the ungodly stepped over the boundary,

Snatching away the flock with the shepherd?

They have led away the donkey of the orphans

And have taken the widow’s ox as a pledge.

They have turned aside the weak from the right way;

The gentle of the land have hidden themselves together.

They departed like donkeys in the field.

Contrary to me, they went forth to their own pursuits.

Their bread was sweet to their little ones.

For they harvested a field that was not their own before the time,

And the weak worked the vineyard of the ungodly

Without pay or food.

They caused many naked to sleep without clothing,

And they took away the covering of their life.

They are wet with the showers of the mountains

And have huddled around the rock for want of shelter.

They have snatched the orphan from the breast

And have humiliated the banished.

They have unjustly caused them to sleep without clothing,

And they have taken away the morsel from the hungry.

They have wrongfully laid snares in narrow places

And have not known the way of righteousness.

They have cast the weak out of the city and their own houses,

And the soul of the infants sighed greatly.

Why then has He not visited them?

“They are ones on the earth who do not know the Lord,

And they do not understand the way of righteousness,

Nor do they walk in His paths.

But He knows their works and delivered them into darkness;

And one shall be like a thief in the night.

For the eye of the adulterer watches for the darkness,

Saying, ‘No eye will perceive me’;

And he puts a covering on his face.

In the dark he breaks into houses;

In the daytime they seal themselves up;

They do not know the light.

For in due time, the shadow of death will be the same to them,

Because they shall know the troubles of the shadow of death.

“He is swift on the face of the waters;

May his portion be cursed on earth.

May their plants wither on earth,

For they have taken away from the orphans

Even the smallest portions.

Then his sin is recalled to memory,

And he vanishes like a mist of dew;

But what he has done, may it be recompensed to him,

And may every wrongdoer be crushed like rotten wood.

For he has not treated the barren woman well,

And showed no mercy to the feeble woman.

“In his anger, he overturns the weak;

Therefore when he rises up,

No one believes his own life is safe.

When he falls sick, let him not hope to recover,

But let him perish by disease.

For his exaltation mistreated many,

But he has withered as mallows in the heat,

Or as an ear of corn falling on its own from the stalk.

“If it is not so, who says I speak falsely

And will make my speech worth nothing?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Hosea 4:1-8

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord,

You children of Israel,

For the Lord has a judgment for the inhabitants of the land:

“There is no truth or mercy

Or knowledge of God in the land.

Cursing and lying, murder and theft

And adultery gushed forth in the land,

And blood is mingled with blood.

Therefore the land shall mourn

And be diminished with all the things that dwell in it:

The wild beasts of the field, the reptiles of the earth,

And the birds of the sky,

And the fish of the sea shall come to an end;

That neither may anyone judge, nor analyze another;

But my people are as a priest who is spoken against.

“Thus you shall be weak by day,

And the prophet shall be weak with you;

I have compared your mother to the night.

My people are like as those who have no knowledge.

Because you have rejected knowledge,

I will also reject you from being a priest to Me;

And because you have forgotten the law of your God,

I also will forget your children.

According to their multitude,

So they sinned against Me;

I will turn their glory into dishonor.

They will eat the sins of My people

And take away their lives because of their wrongdoings.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

I shall tell you two things. All those for whom there was joy in heaven, on account of their repentance, shall see neither sorrow nor pain in the place they are about to inherit. But those for whom there was no joy in heaven, because they did not turn from their sins, neither repented from their iniquities, shall see neither joy nor repose in that place. For those who live in luxury and enjoyment on earth shall see neither joy nor repose in heaven.1 Have you not heard, what the Lord said, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted”? Likewise, those who see no joy in earth, shall have joy in heaven.1 Have you not heard, “Woe unto you who laugh now! for you shall mourn and weep”?

Is not this the time in which the weak shall be clothed with strength, in which the weak shall say, “I am strong,”2 when he gives his heart to the scripture? Even as the prophet has said, “Many are those whose flesh became weakened through the multitude of their adulteries; their hearts also shall be weakened.”3 Those of whom the scripture also says, “He shall be destroyed in the uncleanness of his soul.”4 As for those who strive valiantly, it was said about them, “Make haste to show yourself approved of God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”5

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

1Luke 16:19-23

2Luke 16:20-22

3Joel 3:10

4Source unkown

52 Timothy 2:15

### The Third Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 8:11-20

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days—then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’ Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 2:1-9

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 21:3b-18

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord and Master: “Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green wood and every dry wood in you. The blazing flame shall not be quenched, and every face from north to south shall be burned up by it. All flesh shall know that I, the Lord, kindled it, and it shall not be quenched.” ’ ” Then I said, “By no means, O Lord and Master. They say to me, ‘This is a parable, is it not?’ ”

So the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and set your face against Jerusalem, and look against the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel. You shall say to the land of Israel, ‘Behold, I am against you, and I will draw My sword out of its sheath and destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you. Because I will destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you, thus My sword shall go out of its sheath against all flesh from north to south, and all flesh will know that I, the Lord, have drawn My sword out of its sheath; and it shall not return anymore.’ As for you, son of man, groan with a breaking heart, and sigh with bitterness before their eyes. 1t will be, if they say to you, ‘Why are you groaning?’ that you shall say, ‘Because of the news, for it is coming. Every heart will be oppressed, all hands will be feeble, all flesh and every spirit will faint, and every thigh will be stained with urine. Behold, it is coming and will be,’ says the Lord and Master.”

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, prophesy and you will say, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Say, ‘O sword, sword, be sharpened and furious, that you may slay victims. Be sharpened, that you may be glistening and ready for destruction. Despise and reject every tree.’ So he made it ready for his hand to hold. The sword is sharpened and ready to put in the hand of the slayer.’ ”

“Cry out and wail, son of man, for this sword is come among My people; this sword is come among all the leaders of Israel. They shall be as strangers because of the sword that is come among My people; therefore, clap your hands, because it is justified; and what if even the tribe is rejected? It shall not be,” says the Lord and Master.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 4:20-5:2

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Watch for a proper opportunity and keep yourself from evil;

And do not bring shame upon your soul.

For there is a shame that brings sin,

And there is a shame which is glory and grace.

Do not show partiality to someone to your own harm,

And do not let your respect for another cause you to fall.

Do not withhold a word in time of need;

For wisdom is made known by a word,

And instruction by a word of the tongue.

Do not speak against the truth,

And do not be put to shame by your ignorance.

Do not be ashamed to confess your sins,

And do not exercise force against the current of a river.

Do not subject yourself to a foolish man,

And do not show partiality to a ruler.

Fight to the death for the truth,

And the Lord God will fight for you.

Do not be rash with your tongue

And sluggish and neglectful in your works.

Do not be like a lion in your home

And act in pretense with your servants.

Do not let your hand be extended to receive

And shut when you should repay.

Do not set your heart on your possessions,

And do not say, “I am independent.”

Do not follow yourself and your strength

So as to walk in the desires of your heart.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 6:5-9:7

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord God saw man’s wickedness, that it was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts within his heart was only evil continually. So God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and He thought this over. Then God said, “I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the earth, from man to cattle, and from the creeping things to the birds of heaven, for I am grieved I made them.” But Noah found grace in the presence of the Lord God.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, who was perfect in his generation and well-pleasing to God. So Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt before God and filled with unrighteousness. Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with unrighteousness through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of square timber. You shall make the ark in compartments, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. Thus you shall make the ark: three hundred cubits in length, fifty cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. Now when you assemble the ark, you shall gradually finish it up to a cubit at the top, and set the door in its side. You shall make the ark with lower, second, and third stories. And behold, I am bringing a flood of water on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. Whatever is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. From every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing on the earth after its kind, two of every kind, they will enter into the ark with you, male and female, to keep them alive. You shall also take for yourself all kinds of food to eat, and you shall gather it both for yourself and for them.” Thus Noah did according to all the Lord God commanded him, so he did.

Then the Lord God said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your family, because I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation. You shall also bring with you into the ark the clean cattle by sevens, male and female; and the unclean cattle by twos, male and female; and the clean birds of heaven by twos, male and female, to keep seed alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out from the face of the earth every living thing I made.” So Noah did all the Lord God commanded him.

Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. Then Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, entered the ark because of the flood waters. Also the clean and unclean birds, the clean and unclean cattle, and everything that creeps on the earth, entered with Noah into the ark, two by two, male and female, as God commanded him. Then it came to pass after seven days, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened. Then it rained on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives entered the ark. Also, all the wild animals after their kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing moving upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, entered the ark with Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God commanded him. Then the Lord God shut him in the ark.

Now the flood was on the earth forty days and forty nights. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. So the waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. The waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and covered all the high mountains. And all flesh died that moves on the earth: birds and cattle, wild animals, and every creeping thing that moves on the earth, and every man. Thus all things in whose nostrils was the breath of life, and everything on dry land, died. So He blotted out all living things on the face of the earth: both man and cattle, creeping things and the birds of heaven. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained alive. Now the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Then God remembered Noah, and whatever was with him in the ark: all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the birds, and all the creeping things. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah’s life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you. Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. So the Lord God smelled a sweet aroma. Then the Lord God thought it over and said, “I will never again curse the earth because of man’s works, although the mind of man is diligently involved with evil things from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and spring shall not cease by day or by night.”

Thus God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it. For the dread and fear of you shall be upon all the wild animals of the earth, all the birds of heaven, all that move upon the earth, and all the fish of the sea. I have put them under your authority. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as I did the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its lifeblood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of all the wild animals I will require it; and I will require the life of man at the hand of his fellow man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; because I made man in God’s image. So then, increase and multiply; and fill the earth and have dominion over it.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,

And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;

She mixed her wine in a bowl

And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,

Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,

Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:9-31

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God.” Behold, the Lord is coming with strength, and His arm is with authority. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.

Who measured the water in His hand, and heaven with a span, and all the earth with a handful? Who weighed the mountains in scales and the vales in a balance? Who knows the Lord’s mind, and who was His counselor; who advises Him? Or with whom does He take counsel, who instructs Him, and who teaches Him judgment and shows Him the way of understanding? The nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the balance of a scale; and they are counted as spittle. Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its four-footed animals sufficient for a whole burnt offering. All nations are as nothing and are counted as nothing. To whom then will you liken the Lord, and to what likeness will you compare Him? Has the workman made an image, or has the goldsmith overspread it with gold, gilding it, making a likeness of Him? For the workman chooses wood that will not rot, and skillfully seeks to prepare a carved image that will not totter. Will you not know? Will you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Do you not know the foundations of the earth? It is He who possesses the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out heaven like a vault, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He makes the rulers He establishes to rule to be as nothing; He makes the earth as nothing. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. “Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice.

For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying, “My way is hidden from God, and my God took away my judgment and departed”? So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 7:9-15

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I continued to watch until thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days enthroned Himself. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, and its wheels a burning fire. A river of fire flowed from before Him. Thousands and thousands ministered to Him, and countless thousands stood before Him. The court was in session, and the books were opened. Then I kept watching because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. I watched until the beast was put to death and destroyed, and its body given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, yet length of life was given them for a season and a time.

I continued to observe the vision in the night, and behold, One like the Son of Man was coming with the clouds of heaven, until He came to the Ancient of Days and approached Him. Then dominion, honor, and the kingdom were given to Him, and all peoples, tribes, and languages served Him. His authority is an everlasting authority which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed.

My spirit within me trembled with fear, and the visions in my head troubled me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 30:25-30

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On every high mountain and on every high hill there will be streams in that day, when many perish and the towers fall. In that day, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, when the Lord heals the wound of His people and the pain of your plague.

Behold, the name of the Lord comes after a long time, a burning anger. The teaching of His lips is with glory, a revelation full of wrath, and the wrath of His anger shall devour like fire. His breath, like an overflowing stream in a valley, shall reach up to the neck and be divided, to trouble the nations for their vain error; and error shall pursue and overtake them. Must you always be glad, and go into My holy places continually, as those who keep a feast, and must you always go with a flute, as those who are glad when they go into the mountain of the Lord, to the God of Israel? God will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and He will show the anger of His arm with anger and wrath, and the flame of a devouring fire. He shall strike violently with thunderbolts, and His wrath shall be as water and violent hail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 6:24-7:5

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, guard the laws of your father,

And do not depart from the rules of your mother.

But fasten them to your soul continually

And wear them as a collar upon your neck.

When you walk about, bring along this commandment

And let it be with you;

And as you sleep, let it guard you,

That when you arise, it may speak to you.

For a commandment of law is a lamp and a light,

And the way of life is reproof and instruction,

That you may keep yourself from a married woman

And from the slanderous tongue of a strange woman.

Do not let the desire of beauty conquer you;

Neither be caught by her eyes,

Nor captivated by her eyelids;

For the value of a prostitute is only one loaf,

And such a woman hunts for the precious souls of men.

Shall anyone bind fire to his bosom

And his garments not burn?

Or will anyone walk about on coals of fire

And not burn his feet?

Likewise is the one who goes in to a married woman;

He shall not be guiltless, nor any who touch her.

It is not surprising if anyone who steals is caught,

For he steals that he may fill his hungry soul;

But if he is caught, he will repay sevenfold,

And by giving all his goods, he shall deliver himself.

But the adulterer through his lack of discernment

Obtains the destruction of his soul;

He bears both pain and dishonor,

And his disgrace will not be wiped away forever.

For the anger of her husband is full of jealousy;

He will not spare in the day of judgment;

He will not take any ransom in exchange for his hatred,

Nor will he be reconciled by many gifts.

My son, guard my words,

And hide my commandments within yourself;

My son, honor the Lord, and you shall be strong,

And fear none other but Him.

Guard my commandments

And you will live, and my words as the pupils of your eyes;

And put them around your fingers,

And write them upon the breadth of your heart.

Say that wisdom is your sister,

And gain discernment as a friend for yourself,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

I would like to remind you, brethren, of what I told you several times, whenever we partook of the holy Mysteries of Christ. When I see your recklessness and lack of awe, that calls for weeping, I weep by myself, saying in my mind, “Do they realize before Whom they are standing? And do they know the power of this Mys-tery?” It is then that I become angry against my will, and wish that I could walk away from among you because of the anguish of my soul.

When I rebuke one of you, he does not take heed to what I say, but rather murmurs against me, as if I had done him injustice. What a great wonder! that you do not get angry with those who do violence to you and defraud you, as much as you do with me— I, who am jealous for your salvation and fearful that the pun-ishment of God may befall you, on account of your carelessness in re-gard to this great Mystery.

I wonder if you know Who He is that you desire to partake of! This is the holy Body of God the Logos, and His Blood, which He shed for our salvation. This is He of Whom, if one partakes unworthily, he will get guilt and damnation, like Judas who par-took unworthily.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Saint John Chrysostom, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

## Wednesday of Holy Week

### The First Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 22:17-22

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, behold, the house of Israel is mixed before Me—they are altogether mixed—the house is mixed together in the midst of the silver, with bronze, iron, tin, and lead. Therefore thus says the Lord: ‘Because all of you are one mixture, therefore, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem, as men gather silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to cast it like metal into a mold. Thus I shall gather you in My wrath, and bring you together and cast you. I shall blow on you with the fire of My wrath and cast you in her midst. As silver is cast into a mold in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be cast in her midst. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have poured out My anger upon you.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Third Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Amos 5:18-27

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! What is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! As though he rushed into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness and not light? Is it not a deep darkness, with no brightness in it?

“I hate, I reject your feast days. I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and meat offerings, I will not accept them. I will not regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the sound of your songs, for I will not hear your musical instruments. Instead, let justice run swiftly as does water from the mountain, and let righteousness be as a stream that cannot be crossed.

“O house of Israel, did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings those forty years in the wilderness? You have carried the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of your god Raiphan, which you made for yourselves. Therefore I shall exile you beyond Damascus,” says the Lord—the Almighty God is His name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 13:9, 16:9b-13

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Thus says the Lord: ‘In this manner I will destroy the insolence of Judah and that of Jerusalem. “Behold, before your eyes and in your days, I will bring to an end from this place the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

“It shall come to pass that when you shall announce all these words to this people and they say to you, ‘Why has the Lord pronounced all these evils against us? What is our wrongdoing, and what sin did we commit before the Lord our God?’ Then you shall say to them, ‘Because your fathers forsook Me,’ says the Lord, ‘for they went after foreign gods; and they served and worshiped them. They forsook Me, and did not keep My law. But you acted in ways more evil than your fathers; for behold, you, each one of you, walk after the evil pleasures of your heart and do not obey Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land and into a land neither you nor your fathers know; and there you shall serve other gods, who will show you no mercy.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Hosea 9:14-10:2

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Give to them, O Lord!

What will You give to them?

A childless womb and dry breasts.

“All their evils are in Gilgal,

For there I hated them.

Because of their evil practices,

I will cast them out of My house.

I will not love them any more.

All their leaders are disobedient.

Ephraim underwent trouble;

He is dried up at his roots;

He shall bear fruit no more.

Wherefore, even if they should beget children,

I would kill the desired fruit of their womb.”

God shall reject them

Because they have not hearkened to Him.

So they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Israel is a luxuriant vine;

Her fruit is abundant.

According to the multitude of her fruits

She has multiplied her altars;

According to the wealth of his land

He has set up pillars.

They have divided their hearts;

Now shall they be utterly destroyed.

He shall raze their altars to the ground;

Their pillars shall experience distress.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Wisdom 7:24-30

From the book of Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For wisdom moves from one place to another

More easily than motion itself,

And because of her purity, she penetrates all things.

So she is the exhalation of the power of God

And the emanation of the pure glory of the Almighty;

Therefore nothing defiled enters her.

For she is the radiance of eternal light,

A spotless mirror of the operative power of God

And the image of His goodness.

Though she is one, she can do all things;

So while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

And in every generation, she passes into holy souls

And makes them friends of God and prophets.

Thus God loves nothing as much

As the one who lives with wisdom.

For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun

And more than every constellation of stars.

Compared with light she is found to be superior,

For night succeeds the light,

But evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The First Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 17:1-7

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the Wilderness of Sin, according to their encampments and by the word of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. 2herefore the people contended with Moses, saying, “Give us water, that we may drink.” Moses then said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?” Thus the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why is it you brought us up out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our cattle with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go before this people and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand the rod with which you struck the river and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so the people may drink.” So Moses did so before the children of Israel. Thus he called the name of that place Temptation and Abuse, because of the abusive language of the children of Israel and because they tempted the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 3:5-15a

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Trust in God with all your heart,

And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,

That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Hosea 5:13b-6:3

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Ephraim saw his disease

And Judah his pain;

Then Ephraim went to the Assyrians

And sent ambassadors to King Jareb.

But he could not heal you,

And your pain shall in no way cease from you.

Wherefore I am as a panther to Ephraim

And as a lion to the house of Judah.

So I will grasp and go away;

And I will take, and there shall be none to rescue.

I will go and return to My place

Until they are destroyed,

And then they shall seek My face.

In their affliction they will seek Me early, saying:

“‘Let us go and return to the Lord our God;

For He has grasped and will heal us;

He will smite and plug the wound with lint.

After two days He will heal us.

In the third day we shall rise

And live before Him.

Let us know, let us pursue

That we might know the Lord.

We shall find Him ready as the daybreak,

And He will come to us

As the early and latter rain to the earth.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

I shall say these words, and not leave them behind: Do not think that after the chaff is separated from the wheat,1 the sinners will have rest. I tell you, as the scripture also bears witness, that on that day, the angels, the archangels and also the saints shall keep silent, and the Logos of God shall have the final and complete judgment. The sinners will be separated from the righteous, and immediately the sinners are cast into the unquenchable fire.1 Do you think that God is like the sons of men? to have a counsellor or a companion Whom He should ask? What can be forgotten by God, that another can answer? Or, whom would God ask for a word? Rather, all will say this saying with one mouth: “O Judge of truth, righteous are Thy judgments! O Thou Who gives each one according to his deeds, it is not unto us to remind Thee of these things, for all compassion is of Thee.”

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

1Matthew 3:12

### The Third Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 13:17-22

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” So God led the people around by way of the desert to the Red Sea, and in the fifth generation the children of Israel went up from the land of Egypt. Now Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.” So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham by the desert. Moreover, God led them, by day in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire. Thus the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before all the people.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 22:7-18

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who teaches a fool is like one who glues pottery together,

Or like trying to arouse one from a sound sleep.

He who tells something to a fool tells it to a drowsy man,

And at the end he will say, “What is it?”

If children live honestly, and have wherewithal,

They shall cover the baseness of their parents.

But children, being haughty, through disdain and want of nurture

Stain the nobility of their kindred.

Weep for a dead man, for he left the light behind;

But weep over a fool, for he left intelligence behind.

Weep gladly for a dead man, because he is at rest;

But the life of the fool is worse than death.

Mourning for a dead man lasts seven days,

But mourning for a fool or an ungodly man lasts all his life.

Do not hold a conversation with a fool,

And do not visit with a senseless man.

Beware of him, so as to avoid trouble,

And you will not be defiled when he shakes himself off.

Stay away from him, and you will find rest

And not be exhausted by his insanity.

What will be heavier than lead?

And what will be his name but “Fool”?

Sand, salt, and a piece of iron are easier to bear

Than a senseless man.

A wooden beam bound together in a building

Will not be broken loose in an earthquake;

So a heart strengthened by reasonable counsel

Will not be afraid in a crisis.

A heart settled on intelligent thought

Is like a plaster decoration on a smooth wall.

As fences set on a high place will not stand firm against the wind,

So a cowardly heart in the thought of a fool

Cannot stand firm against any kind of fear.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 14:13-15:1a

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses said to the people, “Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord’s salvation which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. I indeed will harden Pharaoh’s heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses.”

Now the Angel of God who went before the camp of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud also went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and the night passed; but there was such darkness and blackness, they did not come near one another all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. He bound the axles of their chariot wheels and caused them to proceed with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots and the riders.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh’s army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the Lord’s mighty hand and the things He did to the Egyptians; therefore, the people feared the Lord and believed God and His servant Moses.

Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying:

“Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 23:7-14

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My children, hear the teaching of my mouth,

For he who keeps it will not be conquered.

A sinner will be overtaken by his lips,

And a slanderer and arrogant man will be made to stumble by them.

Do not accustom your mouth to vows,

Nor make a habit of using the name of the Holy One.

For as a servant who is continually beaten will not lack bruises,

So also he who makes a vow and continually names the Holy One

Will never be cleansed from sin.

A man who swears many oaths will be filled with lawlessness,

And that plague will not depart from his house.

If he offends, his sin will be on him,

And if he overlooks it, he has sinned doubly.

If he swears in vain, he will not be declared righteous,

For his house will be filled with trouble.

There is a way of speaking comparable to death.

May it not be found in the inheritance of Jacob;

For all these things will be far from the godly,

And they will not be involved in sins.

Do not accustom your mouth to lewd expressions,

For this is sinful speech.

Remember your father and mother

When you sit in council with great men,

Lest you forget yourself in their presence

And by habit act foolishly.

Then you will wish you had never been born,

And you will curse the day of your birth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 24:1-9

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my land where I was born, and to my tribe, and take from there a wife for my son Isaac.”

And the servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land you came from?” But Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, who took me from my father’s house and from the land where I was born, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, ‘To you and your seed I give this land,’ He will send His Angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there.” So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his lord, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Numbers 20:1-13

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Desert of Sin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died and was buried there. But there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. So the people scoffed at Moses and spoke, saying, “Would we had died in the destruction of our brethren before the Lord. Why have you brought up the Lord’s congregation into this desert to kill us and our cattle? Why did you also bring us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place?—a place where nothing is sown, neither figs nor vines nor pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.” So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the congregation to the door of the tabernacle of testimony and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them.

The Lord then spoke to Moses, saying, “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before them, and it will give its waters; thus you shall bring them water out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as the Lord ordered him. Then Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear me, you disobedient ones. Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” Moses then lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their cattle drank. But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to sanctify Me before the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land I am giving them.” This was the Water of Contention, because the children of Israel scoffed before the Lord, and He was sanctified among them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 1:11-35

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, do not let the ungodly lead you astray,

And do not consent if they invite you, saying,

“Come with us; take part in bloodshed,

And let us hide a righteous man in the earth unjustly;

And let us swallow him, just as Hades does the living,

And let us take away his remembrance from the earth;

Let us seize his valuable property,

And let us fill our houses with spoils;

Cast your lot with us

And let us acquire a common bag;

Let there be one purse for us.”

Do not walk in the way with them,

But turn away your foot from their paths.

For their feet run to evil,

And they make haste to shed blood.

For nets are not spread before birds for no reason,

For those who participate in murder store up evils for themselves;

And evil is the destruction of lawless men.

These are the ways of all who accomplish lawless things,

For they take away their own soul in ungodliness.

Wisdom sings in the streets;

She moves boldly in the squares.

She preaches on high city walls

And sits at the gates of lords.

At the gates of a city she boldly says,

“So long a time as the simple hold fast to righteousness,

They shall not be ashamed;

But those without discernment, since they are desirous of arrogance,

And are become ungodly, they hate perception,

And are become subject to reproofs.

Behold, I shall bring forth upon you the utterance of my breath,

And I shall teach you my word.

Since I called, but you did not obey,

And spoke at length, but you paid no attention,

But made my counsels invalid,

And were not persuaded by my reproofs;

Consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation,

And will exult when ruin comes to you,

And when confusion reaches you unawares,

And overthrow comes like a whirlwind,

And when tribulation and anguish come to you,

And when destruction comes to you.

For it shall be, when you shall call upon me,

I will not listen to you;

Evil men will seek me, but not find me,

For they hate wisdom, and choose not the fear of the Lord.

Neither do they wish to follow my counsels,

But despise my reproofs.

Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way

And be filled with their own ungodliness.

For since they wrong the simple, they shall be killed,

And a close examination shall destroy the ungodly.

But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope,

And shall be at rest without fear from every evil.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 28:16-29

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth. Give ear and hear my voice. Listen and hear my words. Will the plowman plow all day? Or will he prepare the seed before he cultivates the ground? When he levels its surface, does he not then sow the small black cummin, and afterward sow the wheat, the barley, and the one-seeded wheat in your borders? So you will be chastised by the judgment of your God and be gladdened by it. For the black cummin is not cleansed with harshness, nor will the wheel of a wagon roll over the cummin; but the black cummin is threshed with a stick, and the cummin will be eaten with bread. For I will not be angry with you forever, nor will the voice of my bitterness trample you underfoot. These signs came forth from the Lord of hosts. Take counsel; exalt vain comfort.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Servarian of Gabala. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

Brethren, let me remind you now of that voice that shall come upon the sinners and those who abandon the Law and the commandments of life. For He shall say, “Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire.”1 What comfort will those hope for af-ter that? Here indeed is the valley of weeping, the place in which shall be tears. These are the tears after which there shall be no consolation. Who shall be able to comfort sinners on that day? For the angels, the Cheru-bim and the Seraphim shall keep si-lent, together with all the righteous and the just. None of them will be able to comfort mankind on that day. The whole creation shall stand silent-ly, and the whole world will be un-der the just divine judgment. This is the time of the harvest,2 this is the time of drawing the net to the shore, and separating the good from the bad.3 This is the time when it shall be said unto the sinners, “Go ye into Amenti, your abode forever.”

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Severian, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen

1Matthew 25:41

2Matthew 13:30

3Matthew 13:47-50

## Maundy Thursday

### The First Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 43:5-11

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the house was full of the Lord’s glory.

Then I stood, and behold, there was a voice from the house, and a Man was standing with me. He said to me, “Son of man, you have seen the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the house of Israel forever. No more will the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their leaders, by their fornication or murders of the leaders in their midst. When they set My threshold by their thresholds, and My doorpost by their doorposts, with a wall between them and Me, they desecrated My holy name by their lawlessness, and I destroyed them in My anger and with slaughter. Now let them remove their fornication from My presence, and the murders of their leaders, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

“As for you, son of man, explain this house to the house of Israel, and they will cease from the shame of their sins; and describe to them its vision and its plan. They shall take the chastisements for all the things they did, and you shall describe the house, its design, its exits, and its substance, and all its ordinances. You shall make known its laws to them and write them out in their sight. Then they will keep all My requirements and all My ordinances and perform them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Third Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Amos 4:4-13

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[Thus] says the Lord God, “You come to Bethel and act lawlessly and multiply your transgressions in Gilgal. You bring your sacrifice in the morning and your tithes every three days. Moreover, outside they read things of the Law and call for professions. Proclaim that the children of Israel love these things,” says the Lord God. “And in all your cities I gave you cleanness of teeth, and in all your places a lack of bread. Yet you did not return to Me,” says the Lord. “And also, I withheld rain from you for the three months before the harvest. I caused it to rain upon one city while I withheld rain from another. On one field it rained, but where it did not rain, the crops withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied. Yet,” says the Lord, “you did not return to Me.”

The Lord Smites Israel for Her Sin

“I struck you with a parching and blight. When you multiplied your gardens, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the caterpillar devoured them. Yet you did not turn back to Me,” says the Lord. “I sent forth death against you by way of Egypt, and I killed your young men with a sword, together with your captured horses. And in My wrath I brought fire upon your army camps. Yet you did not return to Me,” says the Lord. “I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you became like a torch that burns out after being plucked out of the fire. Yet even after all this you did not return to Me,” says the Lord.

“Therefore, O Israel, thus shall I do to you, and because I will do thus to you, make yourself ready to call upon your God, O Israel! For behold, I am the One who strengthens the thunder, and creates the wind, and proclaims His Anointed One to mankind, making the daybreak and the darkness, while treading upon the high places of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name!”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Amos 3:1-11c

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O house of Israel, hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, “Out of all the families of the earth, I have especially known you. Therefore I shall exact vengeance upon you for all your sins. If two people walk together, will each one not come to know the other? Will a lion roar from his lair in the forest if he has no prey? Will a lion’s whelp cry out from his den if he has nothing? Will a bird fall to the earth without a fowler? Will a snare be sprung if it has caught nothing? If a trumpet is sounded in a city, will not the people be alarmed? If evil should be in a city, has not the Lord brought it? For the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals instruction to His servants the prophets. A lion shall roar, and who will not fear? The Lord God speaks, and who will not prophesy?

“Proclaim it in the regions among the Assyrians and to the lands of Egypt, and say, ‘Gather yourself to the mountains of Samaria, and behold the many remarkable things in her midst and the oppression that is within her. She does not know the things that will come against her,’ says the Lord, ‘she stores up injustice and misery in her lands.’ ” Therefore thus says the Lord God: “O Tyre, your land round about you shall be made desolate, and your strength shall be sapped from you.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 20:27-33

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Therefore speak to the house of Israel, son of man, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Up to this point, your fathers provoked Me by the transgressions they committed against Me. But I led them into the land I swore with an oath to give them, and they saw every high hill and every shade tree. There they sacrificed to their gods; and there they appointed fragrant offerings and poured out their drink offerings. Then I said to them, ‘What is this high place you go to?’ So they call its name Bamah, to this day.’ ” Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Do you defile yourselves with the lawlessness of your fathers, and commit fornication after their abominations? You defile yourselves in the first fruits of your gifts with all your inventions to this very day. Shall I answer you, O house of Israel? As I live,” says the Lord, “I will not answer you, nor will an answer occur to your spirit; for it will not be as you say, ‘We will be like the nations and like the tribes of the earth, to worship trees and stones.’

“Therefore, as I live,” says the Lord, “I will reign over you with a mighty hand, with a high arm, and with anger poured out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 8:4-9

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For thus says the Lord: “Will not he who falls arise? Or he who turns away, will he not return? Why therefore has this My people turned away from Me in a shameful way, strengthened themselves in their choice, and were not willing to return? Indeed, give ear and listen. Will they not speak thus: ‘There is no man who repents of his vices, saying, “What have I done?’ ” The runner ceases to run his race, as a sweating horse ceases to run when he is tired. Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed time, as do the turtledove and the swallow of the field. The sparrows watch for the times of their coming. But My people do not know the judgments of the Lord.

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? The lying pen becomes vanity for the scribes. Wise men are put to shame and convicted, for they rejected the word of the Lord. What wisdom is in them?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The First Hour of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 17:8-16

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for yourself some mighty men and go out, and set the army in array against Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses said to him and set the army in array against Amalek. Then Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hands, that Israel prevailed; but when he let down his hands, Amalek prevailed. Now Moses’ hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and one on the other; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in a book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” Now Moses built an altar and called its name The-Lord-My-Refuge; for with a secret hand the Lord wars with Amalek from generation to generation.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:15-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: “Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called ‘Akeldama,’ that is, ‘The field of blood.’)

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*‘Let his habitation be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it;’*

and,

*‘Let another take his office of overseer.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Third Hour of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 32:30-33:5b

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You committed a great sin. So now I will go up to God to make atonement for your sin.” Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “I pray, O Lord, these people have committed a great sin and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, forgive it—but if not, blot me out of the book You have written.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever sins against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go down and lead the people to the place of which I spoke to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before your face. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will strike them for their sin.” So the Lord struck the people for making the calf which Aaron made.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Depart, go up from here, you and the people you brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your seed I will give it.’ I will send My Angel before your face, and I will drive out the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Gergesite, the Hivite, the Jebusite, and the Canaanite. I will bring you into a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.” When the people heard this bad news, they mourned in lamentations. For the Lord said to the children of Israel, “You are a stiff-necked people. Beware, lest I inflict another plague on you and consume you.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 24:1-11

From the book of Widsdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom will praise herself,

And in the midst of her people she will boast.

In the assembly of the Most High, she will open her mouth

And boast in the presence of His host.

“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High

And covered the earth like a mist.

I pitched my tent in the high places

And my throne on the pillar of cloud.

I alone encircle the ring of heaven,

And I walk in the depth of the abyss.

In the waves of the sea, in all the earth,

And in every people and nation

I have gained a possession.

With all these, I have sought a place to rest;

In what inheritance will I lodge?

“Then the Creator of all things commanded me,

And He who created me gave me a place to live.

He said, ‘Pitch your tent in Jacob

And receive an inheritance in Israel.’

Before the age, He created me from the beginning,

And in the age to come I will not cease.

I serve before Him in His holy tabernacle;

Therefore, I am established in Zion.

In the beloved city likewise He gives me rest,

And my authority is in Jerusalem.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 7:1-14

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah. Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Amend your ways and your practices, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not entrust yourselves to lying words, for they will not profit you when you say, ‘It is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.’ For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your practices, if you thoroughly bring about judgment between a man and his neighbor, and do not oppress the resident alien, the orphan, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place or walk after foreign gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land I gave to your fathers of old and forever.

“But if you trust in lying words from which you cannot profit, and you murder, commit adultery, steal, swear to do wrong, burn incense to Baal, and walk after foreign gods you do not know so as to do evil, and come and stand before Me in the house wherein My name is called and say, ‘We have not abstained from doing all these abominations,’ then is this house, called by My name, a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I have seen it.

“But go to My place in Shiloh, where I caused My name to dwell before, and see what I did to it because of the vices of My people Israel,” says the Lord. “Now then, because you did all these works, and I spoke to you but you did not hear Me, and I called you but you did not answer, therefore, I will also do to this house, called by My name in which you trust, and the place I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. I will cast you out of My sight as I cast out your brethren—all the seed of Ephraim.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 20:39-44

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord and Master: “Each of you put away your practices, and after this, if you listen to Me, you will no longer desecrate My holy name with your gifts and practices. For upon My holy mountain, the high mountain,” says the Lord and Master, “there all the house of Israel will serve Me to the end; and there I shall receive you, and look upon the first fruits of your offerings, together with all your holy objects. I shall receive you as a fragrant aroma when I lead you out from the peoples, and receive you from the countries where you were scattered; and I shall be sanctified among you before the eyes of the peoples. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I lead you into the land of Israel, into the land I swore by an oath to give your fathers. There you will remember all your ways and practices which defiled you; and you shall bewail yourselves for all your evil. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you in the way, that My name be not desecrated according to your evil ways and corrupt practices,” says the Lord.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 12:13-13:1

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

13Who will pity a snake charmer when he is bitten,

Or those who go near wild animals?

14So no one will pity one who approaches a sinful man

And gets involved in his sins.

15He will stay with you for a while,

But if you turn aside from him, he will not put up with you.

16An enemy speaks sweetly with his lips,

But in his heart he will plan to throw you into a pit.

An enemy will shed tears, but if he finds an opportunity,

He will not be satisfied apart from shedding your blood.

17If evil comes upon you,

You will find your enemy there ahead of you,

And as he pretends to help you,

He will pull your feet from under you.

18He will shake his head and applaud with his hands;

And he will whisper many things and alter his expression.

1Whoever touches pitch will be stained,

And whoever associates with an arrogant man will become like him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 22:1-19

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham! Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” He then replied, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, “In the mountain the Lord was seen.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.” So Abraham returned to his servants, and they rose and went together to the Well of Oath; and Abraham dwelt at the Well of Oath.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 61:1-7

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 27:2-28:13

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“As the Lord lives who thus judges me,

And the Almighty who embittered my soul,

Surely as long as my breath is in me

And the divine breath is in my nostrils,

My lips will not speak lawless things,

Nor shall my soul practice wrongdoings.

May it not be I who set forth the opinion that you are righteous.

Until the day I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

I hold fast to my righteousness and am not letting it go;

For I am not conscious in myself of having done anything wrong.

“Surely not, but rather may my enemies

Be as the destruction of the ungodly,

And those who rise up against me

As the destruction of the lawless.

For what hope is there for an ungodly man that he holds to it?

Will he trust in the Lord and be saved?

Will the Lord hear his prayer

When distress comes upon him?

Has he any confidence before Him,

Or will the Lord hear him when he calls on Him?

“But indeed, I will tell you what is the hand of the Lord.

I will not lie concerning what is with the Almighty.

Behold therefore, all of you know

You are adding vanity to vanity.

“This is the portion from the Lord for the ungodly man,

And the possession of oppressors

Shall come upon them from the Almighty.

If their children be many, they will be for slaughter;

And if they reach manhood, they will beg.

Those who survive him shall be buried in death,

And no one will have pity on their widows.

Though he gathers silver like dust

And shall prepare gold like clay,

The righteous will acquire these things,

And the true ones will possess his wealth.

His house goes away like a moth

And like a spider’s web.

The rich man will lie down and not continue;

He opens his eyes, but is no more.

Pains happen to him like a flood,

And thick darkness takes him away in the night.

A burning wind will take him up, and he will be gone;

And it will scatter him from his place.

It will blow against him and not spare;

He will try in vain to flee from its force.

It will strike him with its power,

And whistle him from his place.

“Indeed, there is a place for silver, from whence it comes,

And a place for gold, from whence it is refined.

Certainly, iron is taken from the earth,

And copper is hewn out like a stone.

He set an order to darkness

And examines accurately every limit.

A stone is darkness and the shadow of death.

There is a narrow channel of the brook because of dust;

So those who forget the right way

Are weakened because of mortal men.

As for the earth, from it will come bread,

But underneath, it is turned up as by fire;

Its stones are the source of sapphires,

And its dust contains gold.

There is a path no bird knows,

Nor has the eye of a vulture seen it.

The sons of the arrogant have not trodden it,

Nor has the lion passed over it.

He has stretched forth his hand to quarry stones

And has overturned the mountains by the roots.

He has broken asunder the whirlpools of rivers,

And my eye has seen every valued thing.

He has uncovered the depths of the rivers

And has brought his power to light.

“But where can wisdom be found?

What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Prayer Over the Baisen (Lakane)

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 18:1-23

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then God appeared to him at the oak of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door during the noon hour. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood before him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, “O Lord, if I have now found grace in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. Let water be brought, and let them wash Your feet, while You cool Yourselves under the tree. And I will bring bread for You to eat. After that You may pass by, inasmuch as You have come to Your servant.” They said, “Do as you have said.” So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.” Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a young calf, tender and good, gave it to his servant, and he hastened to prepare it. He also took butter and milk and the calf he prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

Then He said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” He replied, “Here, in the tent.” Again He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “I have not yet had a child until now, and my lord is old also?” Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh within herself, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ Is anything impossible with God? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied she had laughed, for she was afraid, saying, “I did not laugh”; but He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham went along and escorted them on their journey. Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them.”

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,

And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;

She mixed her wine in a bowl

And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,

Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,

Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 14:22a, 14:27c, 14:30a, 15:1ab

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 30So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians. Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying:

“Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 3:17

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 4:2-4a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 55:1-56:1

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you.”

Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. “For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail.”

The Lord says this: “Guard judgment and do righteousness, for My salvation draws near, and My mercy shall be revealed.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 36:25-29a

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I shall be your God. I shall save you from all your uncleanness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 47:1-9

Again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then he brought me back to the outer door of the house, and there was water, flowing from under the open air of the chamber toward the east; and the water was flowing from under the right side court, from the south to the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces east; and there was water coming down, running out on the right side, in the direction in which a man went forth opposite. There was a measure in his hands, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure; and he passed through the water. It was the water of remission. Again he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and the water came up to the waist. Again he measured a thousand, and it could not be crossed; for it broke into a rushing torrent which man cannot pass through.

He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, along the bank of the river there were very many trees on this side and the other. Then he said to me, “This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is to the east. Then it goes down upon Arabia and reaches as far as the sea to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. So it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, let us now be remorseful before Him, Who suffered for us, and be fearful of Him, Who girded Himself with a towel, poured water in a basin and washed the feet of His Disciples with His pure hands. Let us bring forth fruits that are worthy of this great humility, which He mani-fested for our sake. Let us repent speedily from our sins, which we have committed. For, if we do not repent, then we will be spoken of in heaven as lovers of sin. What hope have we then, if we are driven out of heaven, if we are cast into condemna-tion? We will be repaid double for our sins, not only for those we com-mitted unknowingly, but also be-cause those we committed knowingly are even worse; not only because we have sinned, but also because we have not repented.

Why did the sheep not know the voice of the Life-Giving True Shepherd, neither did they follow Him? Those, whom He hath pur-chased with His own blood, and for whom He gave Himself up; He, Who gave us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink! Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; Jesus, God, the Son of the Most High God, Who dwells in the highest forever.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 4:9-5:10

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance. For this purpose, we work hard and experience rejection, because we have placed our trust in the living God who is the Savior of all, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to public reading, encouragement and teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the council of presbyters. Be attentive in these things. Give yourself to them completely, so that your progress may be manifest to all. Watch yourself and your teaching. Continue in these things! In doing so, you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Do not [sharply] rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers; older women as mothers; the younger as sisters, in all purity. Honor widows who are truly widows. But if any widow has children or grand-children, let them first learn how to carry out their religious duty towards their own family, and to repay their parents. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God. Those who are truly widows and destitute are the ones who have placed their hope in God and who persevere in petitions and prayers night and day. But those who live in luxury are dead even as they live. Give strict orders regarding these matters, so that they may be without reproach. If anyone does not provide for his own, especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever! Only widows who are more than sixty years old and who were married to one man should be enrolled as widows. They should be approved by good works: having brought up children, been hospitable to strangers, washed the saints’ feet, relieved the afflicted, and pursued every good work with attention.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Liturgy

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For I received from the Lord what also I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me.” Likewise, he also took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in a manner unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let everyone do a self-examination, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. For whoever eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, if such a one does not discern the body of the Lord. For this reason, many among you are weak and sick, and many have fallen asleep. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged, but when we are judged, we are chastised by the Lord, so that we may not be condemned with the world. Therefore, my brethren, when you come together for the Meal, wait for one another. But anyone who is hungry should eat at home, in fear that your coming together might be for judgment. Other matters, I will set in order when I come.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Eleventh Hour of Maundy Thursday

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 52:13-53:12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men. Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand.

O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty. But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## Great and Holy Friday

### The First Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 8:17-9:5

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Behold, the voice of the daughter of my people cries out from a far land, “Is not the Lord in Zion? Is her King not there?” “No, because they provoked Me to anger with their carved images and foreign vanities.” They will say, “The summer is gone, the harvest is past, and we are not saved.”

I am saddened because of the ruin of the daughter of my people. Pains have seized me as one who gives birth. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician? Why is no healing taking place for the daughter of my people? Who will give water to my head and a fountain of tears to my eyes, that I might weep day and night for this people of mine, for the wounded of the daughter of my people?

Who will give me lodging in a deserted place, that I might leave my people and depart from them? For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

“They bent their tongues like a bow. Falsehood, not faith, prevails in the land. For they went from evil to evil, and have not known Me. Let each take heed to his neighbor, and not trust their brothers, for every brother will utterly deceive, and every friend will walk treacherously. Each will mock at his friend and not speak the truth. Their tongue learns to speak lies, and they do wrong. They do not pause to turn back. There is usury upon usury, deceit upon deceit. They are unwilling to know Me,” [says the Lord.]

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Third Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 36:16-23

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, the house of Israel dwelt upon their land, but they defiled it by their conduct and by their idols and uncleanness. Their conduct before me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore I poured out My anger on them. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them as chaff into the countries. I judged them according to their conduct and their sins. So when they came to the nations, wherever they went, they desecrated My holy name when they said, ‘These are the people of the Lord, and they have come out of His land.’ But I spared them for the sake of My holy name, which the house of Israel desecrated among the nations wherever they went.

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord: “I will not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for the sake of My holy name, which you desecrated among the nations wherever you went. Thus I will sanctify My great name, desecrated among the nations, which you desecrated in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, when I am sanctified among you before their eyes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Ezekiel 22:23-28

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, say to her, ‘You are the land not rained on, neither has rain come upon you in the day of wrath.’ Her leaders are like roaring lions seizing prey, who devour souls by domination and receive honors in wrongdoing; and your widows multiply in your midst. Her priests reject My law and desecrate My holy things. They no longer distinguish between the holy and the profane, nor between the unclean and the clean. They have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am desecrated in their midst. Her rulers in her midst are like wolves seizing their prey, so as to shed blood and exploit others for greed. Her prophets who anoint them will fall because they see worthless and false prophecies, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord,’ but the Lord has not spoken.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 9:7-10

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will set them on fire and test them; I shall do so because of the evil of the daughter of My people. Their tongue is a wounding arrow, and the words of their mouth are deceitful. One speaks peaceably to his neighbor, but has hatred in his heart. Shall I not visit them for these things?” says the Lord. “Shall not My soul take vengeance on such a people as this? Take up a wailing on the mountains and a lamentation on the paths of the desert; for they cease from being a people. They do not hear the sound of existence from the birds of the sky, nor even from cattle. They were astonished; they were gone. I will put Jerusalem into captivity, and it will become a dwelling place of serpents. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, beyond habitation.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 21:33-37

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“As for you, son of man, prophesy, and you shall say, ‘Thus says the Lord to the sons of Ammon and to their shame,’ and you shall say, ‘O sword, sword, drawn for slaughter and for an end; arise, that you may glisten. While you are seeing a worthless vision, and while you are prophesying falsehood, and while you are handing over the necks of wounded and lawless men whose day has come, whose end of wrongdoing has come at the proper time, turn back, and do not lodge in this place in which you were born, for I will judge you in your own land. I will pour out My wrath upon you; I will breathe upon you with the fire of My wrath, and deliver you into the hands of barbarians, skilled in working destruction. You will be fuel for the fire; your blood will be in the midst of your land. There will be no remembrance of you; for I the Lord have spoken.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 27:11-28:15

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And after a time, there will be nothing green in it because of the withering. Come here, you women who come from that sight. For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will have no compassion on them, neither He who formed them; and He will show them no mercy. And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will close it from the channel of the river to the Brook of Egypt. And you will gather the sons of Israel one by one. So it shall be in that day that they shall blow the great trumpet, and the lost ones in the country of the Assyrians and in Egypt will come, and they shall worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

Woe to the crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, the flower that fell from the glory on top of the fertile mountain, those who are drunk without wine. Behold, the anger of the Lord is a strong and harsh thing, like a falling hail where there is no shelter, falling violently like a great force of water, sweeping away the country. He shall bring relief for the earth with His hands. The crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, will be trampled underfoot. But the flower that fell from the hope of the glory on the top of the high mountain shall be like the forerunner of the fig. He who sees it wishes to swallow it before he gets it in his hand. In that day, the Lord of hosts shall be the crown of hope, woven of glory, to the remnant of My people. They shall be left in a spirit of judgment upon judgment and for the strength of those who prevent slaying. For these are led astray with wine and are deceived by strong drink. Priest and prophet are out of their minds by reason of wine; they stagger because of drunkenness; they go astray. This is delusion. A curse will devour this counsel, for this counsel was for the sake of covetousness. To whom have we reported evils and declared a message? Those weaned from milk and withdrawn from the breasts. Expect affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little. By reason of the contempt of lips and another tongue they will speak to this people, saying to them, “This is the rest for the hungry, and this is the affliction,” but they would not listen. The teaching of the Lord God will be for them affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little, so they may go and fall backward; and they will be in danger, crushed and conquered. Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, “We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected”.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The First Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 8:19c-9:24

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen. [Then Moses said to the children of Israel,]

I testify against you today [before heaven and earth]\*, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

“Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?’ Therefore understand today, the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God consumes these nations before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land’; but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to inherit their land, but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face, that He may establish His covenant He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thus you will know today, the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to inherit because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people. Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

Glory to the Holy Trinity

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\* [] Not in OSB, added from Coptic.

##### Isaias 1:2-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: “I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me.” Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Jeremiah 22:29-23:6a

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“O land, land, hear the word of the Lord: ‘Write this man as a banished man, for none at all from his seed shall be raised to sit on the throne of David, or still as a ruler in Judah.’ ”

“Woe to the shepherds who scatter and destroy the sheep of My pasture!” Therefore thus says the Lord against those who tend My people: “You have scattered My sheep and driven them out. You did not care for them. Behold, I shall punish you according to your evil practices. I will receive the remnant of My people from every land where I have driven them. I will establish them in their pasture, and they shall increase and be multiplied. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them. They shall fear no more, nor be terrified,” says the Lord.

“Behold, days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up for David the Righteous Orient, and a King shall reign. He will understand and bring about judgment and righteousness on the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel shall dwell in confidence.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Jeremiah (No reference, Coptic only)

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And Jeremiah said to Pashhur, “You were resisting the truth for sometime with your father and your children who did sin worse than you. For they set a price to him who has no price, and grieved him who heals sickness and forgives sin. They took the price upon which the sons of Israel agreed, thirty pieces of silver. And gave it to the potter’s house. As the Lord commanded me, so I say. The judgment of perdition will be upon them and their children forever, for they judged innocent blood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Wisdom 2:12-22

From the book of Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

Because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds;

He denounces us for our sins against the law

And accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

He claims to have knowledge of God,

And he calls himself a child of the Lord.

He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes;

Even seeing him is a burden to us,

Because his life is unlike that of others;

For his paths go in a different direction.

We are considered by him as a hybrid,

And he avoids our ways as something immoral.

He considers the last things of the righteous as blessed

And pretends that God is his Father.

Let us see if his words are true,

And let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

For if the righteous man is a son of God, He will help him,

And deliver him from the hand of those who oppose him.

Let us test him with insult and torture

That we may know his gentleness

And test his patient endurance.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death,

For there shall be a visitation because of his words.”

So they reasoned these things

And were led astray,

For their malice blinded them.

But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Nor hope for the wages of holiness,

Nor judge the reward of blameless souls.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zechariah 11:11b-14

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[And in that day they will be scattered about. And the Canaanites shall know]\* the flock is kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, “If it is fitting in your judgment, give me my payment, or refuse it.” And they established my wage at thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, “Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake.” And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord. And I threw aside the second staff, the Line, to disband the possessions between Judah and Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\* [] Lacking in Kitdchener

##### Micah 7:1-8

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe is me! For I have become like one harvesting stubble, like one gleaning small grapes after the vintage grapes are picked, but not finding for myself any cluster of first fruit to eat. Woe is me, O my soul! For the God-fearing man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among the men. They all lie in wait, even unto blood, and each one grievously oppresses his neighbor. They prepare their hands for evil; the prince demands a gift, and the judge speaks flattering words; it is the desire of their soul. “Thus I shall take away their good things as the moth who eats away, and as one proceeding by the rule in the day of the watch. Alas! alas! the time of your vengeance is come; now shall be their lamentation. Do not trust in friends, nor put your hope in those who govern. Beware of your wife and do not tell her anything. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter will rise up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are all the people of his own house.”

But I will look to the Lord. I will wait for God my Savior, for my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy, for though I have fallen, yet will I arise, because even if I should sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

Alas for me! for I am become as one gathering straw in harvest, and as one gathering grape-gleanings in the vin-tage, when there is no cluster for me to eat the first-ripe fruit: alas my soul! For the godly is perished from the earth; and there is none among men that orders his way aright: they all quarrel even to blood: they griev-ously afflict every one his neighbour: they prepare their hands for mischief, the prince asks a reward, and the judge speaks flattering words; it is the desire of their soul: therefore I will take away their goods as a de-vouring moth, and as one who acts by a rigid rule in a day of visitation. Woe, woe, thy times of vengeance are come; now shall be their lamenta-tions. Trust not in friends, and con-fide not in guides: beware of thy wife, so as not to commit anything to her. For the son dishonours his fa-ther, the daughter will rise up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law: those in his house shall be all a man’s enemies.

But I will look to the Lord; I will wait upon God my Saviour: my God will hearken to me. Rejoice not against me, mine enemy; for I have fallen yet shall arise; for though I should sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light to me.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Saint John Chrysostom, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen

### The Third Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 48:1-19a

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, “Indeed your father is sick”; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and went to Jacob. Thus Jacob was told, “Look, your son Joseph is coming to you”; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. Then Jacob said to Joseph, “My God appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me and said to me, ‘Behold, I will increase and multiply you; and I will make of you a gathering of nations, and give this land to your seed after you as an everlasting possession.’

“Now therefore, your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Your offspring whom you beget after them shall take possession of their inheritances within the tribes of their brothers. But as for me, when I came from Mesopotamia of Syria, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).

Then Israel saw Joseph’s sons, and said, “Who are these with you?” So Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons God gave me here.” Jacob then said, “Bring them to me that I may bless them.” Now the eyes of Israel were dim by reason of old age, and he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed and embraced them. Then Israel said to Joseph, “I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your seed.” So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and they bowed down with their face to the ground.

Then Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near him. Thus Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. Then he blessed them and said:

“God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac were well-pleasing,

The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

The Angel who redeemed me from all evil,

Bless these lads;

Let my name be named upon them,

And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;

And let them grow into a great multitude in the midst of the earth.” took hold of his father’s hand to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. So Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.” 19But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 50:4-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning. The Lord’s instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor do I contradict Him.

“I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock and knew I would not be ashamed. For He who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me. Behold, the Lord will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 3:9c-15

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, saying, “Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us.” They shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. “O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet.” The Lord stands up to plead and stands to judge His people. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes: “For you set fire to My vineyard and the plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the faces of the poor?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 63:1-7a

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is this who comes from Edom with red garments from Bozrah, so beautiful in His apparel, with force of strength? “I speak of righteousness and saving judgment.” Why are Your garments red and Your apparel as one who treads in a winepress? “I am full of the treading of grapes, and there is no man with Me among the nations. I trampled them in My anger, and crushed them like earth, and brought down their blood to the ground. For the day of recompense has come upon them, and the year of redemption has arrived. I looked, but there was no helper; and I observed, but there was no one to help; therefore, My arm delivered them, and My anger was suddenly present. So I trampled them in My wrath and brought their blood down to the ground.”

I remembered the Lord’s mercy, the praises of the Lord in all things in which the Lord recompenses us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 29:21-30:10

From the book of Job the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Men heard and listened to me

And kept silence for my counsel.

At my word they did not speak again,

And they were very glad when I spoke to them.

They waited for my speech

As the thirsty earth for the rain.

If I laughed at them, they did not believe it,

And the light of my countenance did not fail.

I chose the way for them and sat as a ruler;

And I dwelt as a king in the army,

As one who comforts mourners.

“But now they laugh me to scorn,

Men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained;

Whom I did not deem worthy to be put

With the dogs of my pastures.

Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me?

For them the full term of life was lost.

In want and famine, they are childless.

Yesterday they fled to a waterless desert in anguish and misery.

They are those who surround the noisy salt places,

Who have salty herbs for their food,

And who are also considered worthless

And deficient of every good thing,

And chew on the roots of trees because of their great hunger.

Thieves have risen up against me,

Whose houses were holes in the rocks,

Who cry out among the rustling bushes

And live under the wild shrubs.

They are the sons of fools and dishonored men,

Whose name and fame were extinguished from the earth.

“But now I am their lyre,

And they have me as their byword.

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Numbers 21:1-9

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Canaanite king of Arad, who was dwelling in the desert, heard the news—for Israel came by way of Atharim—therefore, he made war against Israel; and they carried off captives from them as booty. Then Israel made a vow to the Lord, and said, “If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, I will anathematize him and his cities.” So the Lord listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites; and they anathematized him and his cities. Therefore, they called the name of that place Anathema.

Then they departed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea; and they went around the land of Edom, and the people became discouraged on the way. So the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to kill us in the desert? For there is no bread nor water, and our soul is weary of this worthless bread.” So the Lord sent venomous serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the children of Israel died. Then the people came to Moses, and were saying, “We sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and against you; therefore, pray to the Lord, and let Him take away the serpent from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a serpent for yourself and put it on a signal pole; and it shall be, if a serpent should bite someone, when the one bitten looks at it, he shall live.” So Moses made a copper serpent and put it on a signal pole; and it happened, when a serpent bit anyone, and he looked at the copper serpent, he lived.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 53:7b-12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 12:2-13:10

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation.” You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. In that day, you will say, “Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all the earth. Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst.”

The vision against Babylon seen by Isaiah the son of Amoz:

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Amos 8:9-12

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“And it will come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God, “the sun will set at noon, and the light of day will grow dark over the land. And I shall turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation. I shall place sackcloth on every waist and make every head bald. They shall be as one mourning a beloved one, and those with them as a day of grief.”

“Behold, the days will come,” says the Lord, “that I shall send a famine across the land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but famine to hear the words of the Lord. The waters will be unsettled as far as the sea. And from the north to the east men will scurry about seeking to find the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Ninth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 11:17-12:13

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, “Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might not be remembered any longer.” But, O Lord, You who judge righteously, who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You.

Therefore thus says the Lord against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, “Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands”— “Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.”

O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? You planted them, and they took root. They bear children and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, “God will not see our ways.”

“Your feet run and grow weary. How then will you prepare yourself to run with horses? You are confident when the land is peaceful, but what will you do when the Jordan floods the land? But even your brothers and the house of your father dealt treacherously with you. They cried out and gathered together in pursuit of you. Do not trust them because they will speak fair words to you.

“I forsook My house and left My inheritance. I gave My beloved inheritance into the hands of its enemies. For My inheritance became to Me like a lion in the forest. It raised its voice against Me; therefore, I hated it. Is not My inheritance the cave of a hyena to Me, or a cave it walks around? Gather together all the wild beasts of the field and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. It was made a complete ruin. The whole land was utterly destroyed for My sake, because there was no man who took it to heart. The tormentors come to every passage in the desert, because the sword of the Lord will devour from one end of the land to the other. No flesh has any peace. Sow fires and reap thorns. Their portions will not profit them. Be ashamed of your boasting because of your disgrace before the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zechariah 14:5d-11

From the book of Zecheriah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with Him. And in that day, it shall be that there will not be any light, but there shall be cold and frost for one day, and that day shall be known to the Lord. It will be neither a day nor a night, but towards evening there will be light.

And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king’s winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Eleventh Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 12:1-14

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the family households, a lamb for each home. If there be too few in a household, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of souls; he will make his count in lambs according to the needs of each one. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You shall take it from the sheep or the kids. Then you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, nor shall you break a bone of it; and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. Thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Pascha. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute vengeance: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

It is written in the books, that if our souls are bound by the Law of God, then the powers of darkness cannot prevail over us. But, if we depart away from God, they will overpower us.

Therefore, if you wish to be saved, meditate on God's rich love and wisdom. Stretch your hands in the likeness of the Cross to cross over that great sea which is this world, and thus reach God. Stay away from those things that hinder you from crossing over, such things as belong to those who are outside the catholic Church. I mean, disbelief, fornication, gossip, and love of mon-ey, which is the root of all evil.

Behold, the sign of the Cross is spread over all the creation! For, if the sun stretches not its rays, it can-not give light, and so too the moon. The birds also, if they stretch not their wings, cannot fly, and the ships too, if they stretch not their sails, cannot sail.

Behold, Moses, the archprophet, when he spread his arms, conquered Amalek; and Thekla, when she was thrown unto the lions, was saved through the sign of the Cross.

Find your comfort in the Church, where you are nourished by the scripture, and by the heavenly bread, and the blood of Christ.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Athanasius, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen

### The Twelfth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Prophecies

##### Lamentations 3:1-62

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“I am the man who sees poverty

By the rod of His anger upon me.

He took me and led me away

Into darkness, and not into light.

Surely He has turned His hand against me

Throughout the day.

“He has aged my flesh and my skin

And has broken my bones.

He has besieged me

And surrounded my head;

He has worn me down with hardships.

He set me in dark places

As those long dead.

“He hedged me in,

And I cannot come forth;

He made my brazen chain heavy.

Though I will call and cry out,

He shuts out my prayer.

He has blocked my ways

And obstructed my paths;

He has troubled me.

“He is a bear lying in wait for me

Like a lion in a hidden place.

After I departed, He eagerly pursued and caught me;

He has utterly ruined me.

He bent his bow

And set me up as a target for the arrow.

“He caused the arrows of His quiver

To pierce my loins.

I became a laughingstock to all my people,

And their song all the day.

He has filled me with bitterness

And drenched me with gall.

“He also broke my teeth with gravel

And fed me with ashes.

He took away peace from my soul,

And I have forgotten the good things.

Therefore I said, ‘My victory and my hope

Have perished from the Lord.’

“I remembered by reason of my poverty,

And because of my persecution, I remembered my bitterness and gall.

My soul shall remember

And meditate within me.

I will fix this in my heart;

Therefore, I will endure.

“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him,

To the soul who will seek Him, the Good One.

He will wait for and quietly expect

The salvation of the Lord.

It is good for a man when he takes up

A yoke in his youth.

“He will sit alone and be silent,

Because he bears it on himself.

He will give his cheek to the one who strikes him,

And he will be filled with insults.

Yet the Lord shall not reject him forever.

“For He who humbles will have compassion

According to the abundance of His mercy.

For He does not afflict willingly,

Though He humbles the children of men.

“To humble all the prisoners of the earth

Under His feet,

“To turn aside the judgment of a man

Before the face of the Most High,

And to condemn a man

Before he is judged,

The Lord does not command.

Who thus speaks,

And it comes to pass?

The Lord has not commanded it,

“For evil and good shall not proceed

From the mouth of the Most High.

Why should a living man complain,

A man concerning his sin?

Our way has been searched out and examined;

Therefore we shall turn to the Lord.

“Let us lift our hearts and our hands

To the Most High in heaven.

We have sinned and acted in an ungodly way;

Thus You have not shown us mercy.

But You visited us in anger

And drove us away.

You have put us to death

And not spared us.

“You veiled Yourself with a cloud

Because of our prayer.

To close my eyes and to reject me,

You have placed us in the midst of the peoples.

All our enemies have opened

Their mouth against us.

“Fear and anger have come upon us,

Yes, devastation and destruction.

My eyes will shed tears for forgiveness

Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

My eyes are drowned with tears,

And I will not keep silent;

So there shall be no rest,

“Until the Lord bends down

And sees from heaven.

My eyes will bring suffering in my soul

Because of all the daughters of the city.

My enemies hunted me down

Without cause, like a sparrow.

“They put my life to death in the pit

And threw a stone at me.

Water flowed over my head;

I said, ‘I am rejected.’

I called on Your name, O Lord,

From the lowest pit.

“You heard my voice;

Do not hide Your ears from my supplication.

You drew near at my call on the day I called upon You.

You said to me, ‘Do not fear.’

O Lord, You pleaded the case for my soul;

You redeemed my life.

“O Lord, You saw my troubles;

You judged my cause.

You saw all their vengeance

In all their reasoning against me.

You heard their taunts

And all their plots against me,

“And the lips of those who rose up against me,

And their meditations against me all the day.

Look at their eyes

As they sit down and rise up.

You shall render a recompense to them, O Lord,

According to the works of their hands.

“You shall repay them as a covering

Your hardship for them.

You shall pursue them in Your wrath and utterly destroy them

From under heaven, O Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## Bright Saturday

### Midnight

#### The Prophecies of Midnight

Note: while these are today considered prophecies read during the Midnight Vigil of Bright Saturday, they are in fact additional Canticles, which used to exist as a larger canon of Midnight Priase than the rite retains today. They remain in Bright Saturday as a vestige of the older, fuller rite, though now confused as prophecy readings.

##### Deuteronomy 32:1-43, The Second Canticle of Moses the Prophet

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Take heed, O heaven, and I will speak;

And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

Let my proverbial saying be awaited as the rain,

And let my words come down

As raindrops on the wild grass,

And as snowfall on the sown grass.

For I invoke the Lord’s name:

Ascribe greatness to our God.

He is God, His works are true;

And all His ways are judgment,

A faithful God and without injustice;

Righteous and holy is the Lord.

“They sinned; the blameworthy children are not His,

A generation twisted and perverse.

Is this how you repay the Lord,

O foolish and unwise people?

Is He not your Father, who acquired you?

Has He not made and created you?

“Remember the days of old,

Consider the years of many generations.

Ask your father, and he will tell you;

Your elders, and they will tell you:

When the Most High divided the nations,

When He scattered the sons of Adam,

He set the boundaries of the nations

By the number of God’s angels.

For the Lord’s portion became the people of Jacob;

The allotment of His inheritance is Israel.

“He provided for him in the desert,

In thirst of heat in a waterless place.

He encircled him; He instructed him;

He guarded him carefully as the apple of His eye.

As an eagle covers its nest,

Yearns after its young,

Spreading out its wings, taking them up,

Carrying them on its back,

So the Lord alone led them,

And there was no foreign god with them.

“He raised them on the strength of the land;

He fed them on the produce of the fields;

He suckled them on honey from the rock

And oil from the solid rock,

Butter of oxen and milk of sheep,

With fat of lambs and goats,

Of sons of bulls and goats,

With the choicest wheat;

And you drank wine, the blood of grapes.

“So Jacob ate and was filled, and the beloved kicked;

He grew fat, he grew thick, he is obese.

Then he forsook God who made him

And stood back from God his Savior.

They provoked Me to wrath against foreign gods;

With their abominations they embittered Me.

They sacrificed to demons, and not to God,

To gods they did not know;

New ones, recent gods arrived,

Which their fathers did not know.

You abandoned the God who begot you,

And forgot the God who nourished you.

“So the Lord saw it, and was jealous;

And He was provoked to anger by His sons and daughters.

Then He said, ‘I will turn My face from them,

And I will make known what their end will be;

For they are a perverse generation,

Sons in whom is no faith.

They provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God;

They moved Me to anger by their idols;

But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation;

I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

For a fire is kindled in My anger,

And shall burn to the lowest Hades;

It shall consume the land with its produce

And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

‘I will gather evils on them;

I will spend My arrows on them.

They shall be wasted with hunger,

Devoured by birds and incurable disease;

I will also send against them the teeth of wild animals

With the anger of things crawling on the earth.

The sword shall make them childless outside,

And fear from the inner chambers,

For the young man and virgin,

The nursing child with the elder of gray hairs.

I said, “I will scatter them;

I will make their memory cease from among men,”

But for the wrath of the enemy, lest they live long,

Lest their adversary make a joint attack,

Lest they should say, “Our hand is high;

And it is not the Lord who did all this.” ’

“For they are a nation void of counsel,

Nor is there understanding in them.

They were not wise to understand these things;

Let them be concerned for the coming time.

How could one chase a thousand

And two put ten thousand to flight

Unless God had sold them,

And the Lord delivered them up?

For our God is not like their gods,

But our enemies are foolish.

For their vineyard is of the vineyard of Sodom,

And their vine is of Gomorrah;

Their grapes are grapes of gall;

Their clusters are bitter.

Their wine is the wrath of serpents,

And the incurable wrath of asps.

‘Behold, is this not laid up in store with Me,

Sealed up among My treasures?

I shall repay on the day of vengeance;

In time, when their foot shall slip;

For the day of their calamity is at hand,

And is waiting, ready for them.’

“For the Lord will judge His people,

And have compassion on His servants;

For He sees them disabled

And left in distress and weakened.

The Lord said,

‘Where are their gods in which they trusted?

Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,

And drank the wine of their drink offerings?

Let them rise and help you

And be your defender.

‘Now see, I, even I, am He,

And there is no God besides Me;

I kill and I make alive;

I wound and I heal;

Nor is there any who can deliver from My hands.

For I raise My hand to heaven,

And I swear by My right hand, and say,

“As I live forever,

for I whet My sword like lightning;

And My hand takes hold on judgment.

I will render vengeance on My enemies,

And repay those who hate Me.

I will make My arrows drunk from blood;

And My sword shall devour flesh

From the blood of the slain and the captives,

From the heads of the leaders of the enemy.” ’

“Rejoice, O Heavens, together with Him,

And worship Him, all the sons of God;

Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people;

And let all the angels of God be strong with Him;

For He will avenge the blood of His sons

And render vengeance to His adversaries;

And the Lord will purify His people’s land.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 2:1b-10 The Prayer of Hanna, Samuel’s Mother

From the book of Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Habbakkuk 3:2-19 The Prayer of Habakkuk

From the book of Habbakkuk the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid;

I considered Your works and was greatly astonished.

You shall be known between the two living creatures;

In the approaching years You shall be acknowledged;

You will be revealed when the time comes.

When my soul is troubled,

You will in wrath remember mercy.

God will come from Teman,

The Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees. Pause.

His excellence covered the heavens,

And the earth was full of His praise.

His brightness will be like the light;

Horns will be in His hand,

And He established a mighty love of His strength.

Before His face a word will go forth;

It will go out by the shoes of His feet.

The earth stood and was shaken to and fro;

He looked and the nations melted away.

The mountains were shattered by force;

The everlasting hills wasted away.

In the place of distresses, I saw His eternal ways.

The tents of the Ethiopians will be dismayed,

Even the tents of the land of Midian.

Were you angry, O Lord, with the rivers?

Or was Your wrath against the rivers,

Or was Your fury against the sea,

That You will mount on Your horses,

And Your chariot is salvation?

“You will stretch your bow against scepters,” says the Lord. Pause.

The land of rivers shall be torn asunder.

Many peoples will see you and be in travail,

Dispersing waters from its course.

The abyss uttered its voice;

Raising its form on high.

The sun arose, and the moon stood in its course;

At the light of Your arrows they went forth,

At the flashing of Your gleaming weapons.

You will bring low the land with threatening;

You will break the nations in wrath.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people,

To save Your anointed ones.

You brought death upon the heads of the lawless;

You brought bonds upon their neck. Pause.

You cut off the heads of rulers in amazement;

They shall tremble in it.

They will break their bridles

Like a poor man eating secretly.

You ran your horses into the sea,

Churning up the many waters.

I kept watch, and my belly trembled

From the sound of the prayer of my lips;

And trembling penetrated into my bones.

And my very frame of mind was troubled.

I shall rest in the day of tribulation

To go up to the people of my sojourn.

For though the fig tree will not bear fruit

And there be no grapes on the vines;

The labor of the olive tree fail

And the fields yield no food;

Though the sheep have no pasture

And there be no oxen in the cribs;

Yet I will glory in the Lord;

I will rejoice in God my Savior.

The Lord God is my strength;

He will direct my feet to the end;

He will set me upon high places,

So to conquer by His song.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Jonas 2:2-10 The Prayer of Jonas the Prophet

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said:

“I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God,

And He heard my voice;

Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,

And rivers encompassed me;

All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.

And I said, ‘I have been driven away from Your sight;

Shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me to my soul;

The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,

The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.

When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord.

May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You,

To You, the Lord of Deliverance.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 38:10-20 The Prayer of King Hezekiah

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“I said at the end of my days near the gates of Hades, ‘I shall leave behind the remainder of my years.’ I said, ‘I shall no longer see the salvation of my God upon the earth; I shall no longer see a man among my kindred.’ I left behind what remained of my life. It went away and departed from me like one who takes down a tent. My breath became in me like the web of a weaver when she draws near to cut it. On that day I was given as to a lion until morning. So He broke my bones, for from day until night I was given over. Like a swallow, so shall I cry; I will mourn like a dove. My eyes fail from looking to the height of heaven toward the Lord, who delivered me and removed the pain of my soul. O Lord, it was told You concerning this, and You revived my breath; and I was comforted and lived. For You chose my soul that it should not perish, and You cast all my sins behind me. For those in Hades shall not praise You, neither will the dead bless You; nor shall those in Hades hope for Your mercy. The living shall praise You as I do. For from this day forward, I shall cause children to declare Your righteousness, O Lord of my salvation, and I shall not cease to bless You with the psaltery all the days of my life before the house of God.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 2 Chronicles 37:1-15 The Prayer of King Manasses

The Prayer of Manasseh. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their righteous seed; who made heaven and earth with all their ornamentation; who set the bounds of the sea by the word of Your command; who closed the abyss and sealed it by Your fearful and glorious name; before whom all things tremble and fear because of Your power; for the majesty of Your glory is unbearable, and the wrath of Your threats toward sinners cannot be withstood; yet Your merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable. For You are the Lord Most High, and are tenderhearted, patient, very merciful, and who repent toward the evils of man.

“Therefore You, O Lord God of the righteous, have not appointed repentance for the righteous, for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who have not sinned against You; but You have appointed repentance for me, a sinner, because I have sinned more than the number of the sands on the seashore. My lawlessness, O Lord, is multiplied. Yes, my lawlessness is multiplied, and I am not worthy to fix my eyes to behold the heights of heaven because of the multitude of my wrongdoings. I am bent down with so many iron chains that I shake my head over my sins, neither do I have any relief. For I have provoked Your anger and done evil in your sight. I have set up abominations and multiplied idols.

“Now therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, begging goodness from You. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my lawlessness. I ask and beg you: forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me because of my lawlessness; neither reserve evils for me, nor be wrathful forever; nor condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth; for You are the Lord God of those who repent. And in me, though I am unworthy, You will show Your goodness, and will save me according to Your great mercy. Therefore I shall praise You continually all the days of my life, for all the powers of the heavens praise You, and Yours is the glory unto the ages. Amen.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 26:8b-20 The First Prayer of Isaias the Prophet

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. The ungodly man ceases; he will not learn righteousness on the earth; he will not do the truth; let the ungodly man be taken away, that he may not see the glory of the Lord. O Lord, Your arm is exalted, but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed, for jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries. O Lord our God, grant us peace, for You render everything to us. O Lord our God, possess us; O Lord, we know no other besides You; we name Your name. The dead will not see life; neither will physicians raise them. Therefore You brought evils upon them and destroyed them, and took away every male of theirs. Bring more evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth. O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction. As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved because of Your fear, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain, and we have given birth. We brought forth the spirit of Your salvation on the earth. But the inhabitants of the world shall fall. The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad, for your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end.” Come, my people, enter your closets and shut your door; hide yourself for a very short while, until the anger of the Lord is past.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 25:1-12 The Second Prayer of Isaias

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation.” For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 26:1-9

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: “Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Lamentations 5:16-22 The Prayer of Jeremias the Prophet

From the Lamentations of Jeremias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The crown fell from our head;

Woe to us, because we sinned!

Because of this, our heart has become painful;

Because of this, our eyes have remained in darkness.

On Mount Zion, because it is desolate,

Foxes pass through it.

“But You, O Lord, shall dwell forever,

Your throne from generation to generation.

Why will You utterly forget us?

Will You forsake us for so long a time?

Turn us back to You, O Lord,

And we shall be converted;

Renew our days as before.

For You have indeed rejected us,

And are exceedingly angry with us.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Baruch 2:11-15 The Prayer of Baruch the Prophet

From the book of Baruch the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

‘And now, O Lord God of Israel, who with a mighty hand led Your people out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with great power and with outstretched arm, and made a name for Yourself then, as it continues to this day, we have sinned and acted ungodly, we have acted unrighteously, O Lord our God, against all Your commandments. Let Your wrath turn away from us, for only a few of us remain within the nations where You scattered us. O Lord, hear our prayer and our petition, and for Your own sake deliver us, and grant us mercy before those who have carried us into exile, in order that the whole earth may come to know that You are the Lord our God, for Israel and his descendants are called by Your name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kings 18:27a, 36-39 The Prayer of Elias the Prophet

From the Third book of Kings the Prophet. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then it came to pass at noon that Elijah cried out to heaven and said, “O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for Your sake I do all these works. Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God, so as turn the heart of this people back.”

Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, “Truly, the Lord is God; He is God.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 The First Prayer of David the King and Prophet

From the first book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

With this, King David blessed the Lord before all the assembly, saying, “Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel, our Father, unto the ages of ages. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the might. You are master over all that is in heaven and on the earth. Every king and nation is thrown into confusion before You. From the first, You are the wealth and the glory who reigns over all, as the Lord and dominion of all. In Your hand is power and authority, and you are almighty with Your hand to increase and establish all things. And now, Lord, we give thanks to You, and we praise Your glorious name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kings 8:20-30 The Prayer of King Solomon

From the third book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said, “O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, who keep Your covenant and Your mercy with Your servant who walks before You with all his heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as today. Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your people guard and keep their ways to walk before Me, as you walked before Me.’ So now, O Lord God of Israel, let the word be confirmed You spoke to Your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell with men on earth? If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place day and night. You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.

“When anyone sins against his neighbor, or if he takes up an oath that he should swear, and comes and redeems himself before Your altar in this temple, You will hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your people Israel; condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving to him according to his righteousness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 9:4-19 The Prayer of Daniel the Prophet

From the book of Daneil the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession. I said, “O Lord God, great and marvelous, who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and keep Your commandments—we sinned and did wrong. We acted lawlessly, fell away, and turned away from Your commandments and judgments. Neither did we obey Your servants the prophets who spoke in Your name to our kings, our rulers, our fathers, and to all the people in the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but shame of face belongs to us, as it is today, to the men of Judah, to those who dwell in Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those near and far in all the earth, wherever You scattered them in their faithlessness by which they rejected You. O Lord, shame of face belongs to us, our kings, our rulers, and to our fathers who sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, whereas we fell away. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by the hands of His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel transgressed Your law and turned aside, so as not to obey Your voice. Therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has come upon us, because we sinned against You. So He confirmed His words which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us great calamities; for under the whole heaven such has not taken place, as the things that happened in Jerusalem. As it is written in the Law of Moses, all these calamities came upon us, yet we have not entreated the Lord our God so as to turn from our wrongdoings, and to gain insight into all Your truth. Therefore the Lord watched and brought all these things upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in every work He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. So now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people from the land of Egypt with a strong hand, and who made Yourself a name as it is this day, we have sinned and acted lawlessly.

“O Lord, in all Your mercy, let Your anger and Your wrath be turned away from Your city of Jerusalem, Your holy mountain, though we have sinned; for in our wrongdoings and those of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a disgrace among all those around us. So now, O Lord our God, listen to the prayers of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is deserted because of You, O Lord. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our destruction and that of Your city, in which Your name is called upon; for not on the basis of our righteous deeds do we bring our prayer for mercy before You, but on the basis of Your abundant mercy. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay for Your sake, O my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 3:1b-24, 51 The Story of the Three Children

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers—all those in authority who ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made.

Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, “To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.” So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up.

Daniel’s Companions Refuse Idol Worship

Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever. You, O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, but does not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I set up? Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. For there is a God in the heavens, whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord.

Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 3:91-97a

Now Nebuchadnezzar heard their singing, and he marveled and rose up in haste, and said to his nobles, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They replied to the king, “Truly, O king.” Then the king said, “Behold, I see four men untied and walking in the midst of the fire, yet they are not destroyed; and the vision of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Then the king approached the door of the burning fiery furnace, and called out to them by name, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come forth and come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came forth from the midst of the fire. Then the governors, the commanders, the viceroys, and the court officials gathered together and beheld the men, that the fire had no power over their bodies; neither had it singed their hair, nor scorched their clothes, nor was the smell of fire on them.

So King Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed is the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent His Angel and saved His servants who trusted in Him; for they altered the word of the king and handed over their bodies to be burned, so as not to serve and worship any god other than their God. Therefore I make a decree: ‘Any people, tribe, or language that blasphemes the God of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego shall be destroyed, and their houses plundered, because there is no other God who can deliver in this way.’ ” Then the king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego authority over the province of Babylon,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 0 The Story of Susana

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a man living in Babylon, and his name was Jehoiakim. He took a wife whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Hilkiah, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous and taught their daughter according to the Law of Moses. Jehoiakim was exceedingly wealthy, with a spacious garden adjoining his house, and the Jews came to him because he was the most honored of them all. In that year, two elders from the people were appointed as judges, concerning whom the Lord said, “Lawlessness came forth out of Babylon from the elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people.” These men were frequently at Jehoiakim’s house, and all who had judgments came to them.

Now when the people departed at midday, Susanna would go into her husband’s garden to walk. So the two elders would see her going in and walking about every day, and they desired her. They turned away their heart and averted their eyes from looking to heaven, and from remembering righteous judgments. Both were pierced to the heart for her, but they did not tell each other their pain. They were ashamed to inform one another of their desire, because they wished to have relations with her. So every day they eagerly watched to see her. Finally they said to one another, “Let us go home, for it is time for the midday meal,” and going out, they parted from each other. But turning back, they met again, and when they pressured each other for the reason, they confessed their desire. Together they arranged for a time they could find her alone.

Then it came to pass, while they were waiting for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids. She also wished to bathe in the garden, for it was hot. For no one was there except the two elders, who hid themselves and were watching her. She said to her maids, “Bring me oil and ointments, and shut the doors of the garden, that I may bathe.” They did as she said and closed the garden doors. They went out by the side doors to bring the things commanded, but did not see the elders, because they were hidden.

When the maids left, the two elders arose and ran to her, and said, “Look, the doors of the garden are closed, and no one will see us, and we desire you. Therefore give us your consent and lie with us. If you do not, we will testify that a young man was with you, and because of this you sent your maids away from you.” Then Susanna sighed deeply and said, “I am hemmed in on all sides, for if I do this thing, it is death for me; yet if I do not, I will not escape your hands. But it is better for me not to do it and to fall into your hands, than to sin against the Lord.” Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders cried out against her. One of them ran and opened the garden doors. When the household servants heard the cry in the garden, they rushed in by the side doors to see what had happened to her. So when the elders told their tale, the servants were deeply ashamed, for such a report had never been made about Susanna.

Then it came to pass the next day, when the people assembled at the house of Jehoiakim, her husband, the two elders also came full of their lawless purpose against Susanna, to have her put to death. They said before all the people, “Send for Susanna the daughter of Hilkiah, who is the wife of Jehoiakim.” So they sent for her, and she came with her parents, her children, and all her kindred. Now Susanna was very desirable and beautiful to behold. However, she was veiled; thus the lawless men commanded she be unveiled, so as to enjoy her beauty. But her friends and all who saw her wept. Then the two elders arose in the midst of the people and laid their hands upon her head. She wept and looked up to heaven; for her heart trusted in the Lord. The two elders said, “As we were walking in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, closed the doors of the garden, and dismissed the maids. Then a young man who was hidden came to her and lay with her. Now we were in a corner of the garden and saw this lawlessness. So we ran to them and saw them having relations. But we could not hold the man, for he was stronger than we. He then opened the doors and rushed out. So we seized this woman and asked her who the young man was, but she was unwilling to tell us.” Thus the assembly believed them, as they were elders and judges among the people. So they condemned her to death.

But Susanna cried out with a loud voice and said, “O eternal God, who know both what is secret and all things before they come to be, You know these men testified against me falsely, and behold, I shall die, though I did none of the things they wickedly invented against me.” The Lord heard her voice, and as she was being led away to be put to death, God aroused the holy spirit of a young boy, whose name was Daniel. He cried out with a loud voice, “I am innocent of the blood of this woman.” So all the people turned to him and said, “What is this thing you said?” Then he stood in their midst and said, “Are you such fools, O sons of Israel? Without examination or knowledge of the evidence, have you condemned a daughter of Israel? Return to the place of judgment, for these men testified against her falsely.”

So all the people returned with haste. The elders said to him, “Come, sit in our midst and inform us, for God gives you that privilege.” Daniel then said to them, “Separate them far from each other, and I will examine them.” When they were separated from each other, he summoned one of them and said to him, “You old man of evil days, now the sins you committed in earlier days have come home; for you pronounce unjust judgments, condemn the innocent, and set the guilty free. Yet the Lord said, ‘You shall not kill the innocent and the righteous.’ Now then, if indeed you saw her, tell me, under which tree did you see them being intimate with each other?” He replied, “Under a mastic tree.” Daniel then said, “Plainly, you lied against your own head, for even now the angel of God receives the sentence from God, and he shall cut you in two.”

Then he removed him, and commanded them to bring the other. He said to him, “You seed of Canaan and not of Judah, beauty deceived you, and desire turned away your heart. This is how both of you deal with the daughters of Israel, and they have been intimate with you through fear; but a daughter of Judah would not endure your lawlessness. Now then, tell me, under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?” He replied, “Under the evergreen oak.” Daniel said to him, “Plainly, you also lied against your own head, for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to cut you in two, that he may destroy both of you.”

Then the whole assembly cried out with a loud voice and blessed God, who saves those who hope in Him. So they rose up against the two elders, for Daniel convicted them out of their own mouth of bearing false witness; and they did to them the thing they maliciously intended to do against their neighbor. For acting in accordance with the Law of Moses, they put them to death. Therefore innocent blood was saved on that day.

Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter, with Jehoiakim her husband and all her kindred, because nothing shameful was found in her. Thus Daniel had a great reputation among the people from that day onward.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Morning or Prime

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 55:2-13

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you.”

Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. “For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Homily1

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

Again, the season of the feast has come, O beloved brethren, which indeed, is always with us who rejoice in the Lord, according to what is written, and is shown again, now to every one through him who was sent to proclaim it, “Celebrate thy feasts, perform thy vows, O Judah.”2 For the fruit of our actions is brought yearly to the Lord Who has commanded it, in a pure conscience. As with a farmer’s implement,3 we bring up in a basket the fruit of the works of the year to the Lord Who has commanded us. And again we shall blossom, being watered, indeed, from the source of salvation, and planted in the vineyard of the Lord, as shoots we stretch out unto the things which are before. Neither disobey Him Who said, “Thou shalt observe the new month and keep the Passover of the Lord thy God.”4 For the Passover is not of men, but of God; and as a manifestation of this we shall forsake the old works that we may be renewed by the new works which the Jews did not understand, who are now without feast.

When it is said, “Thou shalt keep the Passover of the Lord thy God,” we bring to nought the craft of these. For He informs us that it is not merely a commandment of this sort, but a figure of a work which is perfected towards God. For this saying, “Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness,” and the rest of the commandments, have an admonition for us; for they admonish the soul and are an exhortation to an upright life. In this is the victory of the crown of the elect in heaven. Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Athanasius, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen

1 O.H.E. Burmester: Homilies of the Holy Week Lectionary. (edited)

2 Nah 1:15

3 The share of the produce a farmer had to give to the Landlord. (According to the custom at the tiem of writing)

4 Deut 16:1

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthinas 5:7-13

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover,has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral; yet I did not mean with the immoral people of this world, or with those who are greedy, dishonest, or idolaters; or else you would have to leave the world! But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Third Hour of Bright Saturday

#### The Prophecies

##### Jeremiah 13:15-22

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Listen and give ear. Do not exalt yourselves, for the Lord has spoken. Give glory to the Lord your God before it grows dark, and causes your feet to stumble on the dark mountains. You shall wait in anticipation of the light, but the shadow of death will be there; and they shall bring you into darkness. Now if you will not hear, your soul will weep secretly because of your insolent countenance, and your eyes will bring forth tears, for the Lord’s flock is broken apart. Say to the king and to the nobles, “Humble yourself and sit down, for your crown of glory is removed from your head.” The cities to the south were shut, and there was no one to open them. Judah is sent away completely as a settlement.

Lift up your eyes, O Jerusalem, and see those who come from the north. Where is the flock given to you, the sheep of your glory? What will you say when they visit you? For you taught them lessons in the beginning against yourself. Shall not pains of agony seize you, like a woman who gives birth? But if you say in your heart, “Why have these things happened to me?” Because of the multitude of your wrongdoings, your backside was uncovered so your heels might be exposed.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Sixth Hour of Bright Saturday

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 50:10-51:8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. Behold, all of you kindle a fire and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.

“Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord. Look to the solid rock which you hewed, and to the hole of the pit which you dug. Look to Abraham our father and to Sarah who bore you, for he was first, and I called and blessed him, and loved and multiplied him. And now I will comfort you, O Zion, and I comforted all her desert places; and I shall make her desert places like the Garden of the Lord. In it they shall find gladness and exceeding joy, and thanksgiving and the voice of praise. Listen to Me, listen, O My people and kings, give ear to Me, for law shall proceed from Me, and My judgment as the light of the Gentiles. My righteousness draws near quickly, and My salvation will go forth as light, and the Gentiles will hope in My arm, and the coastlands shall wait for Me and hope in My arm. Lift up your eyes to heaven, and look to the earth below, for heaven is solid as smoke, and the earth will grow old like a garment; and the inhabitants of the earth shall die, as do these things. But My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness will not fail. Listen to Me, My people who know judgment, in whose heart is My law. Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be overcome by their contempt. For as a garment will be devoured by time, and as wool will be devoured by a moth, so shall they be devoured. But My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Apocalypse

This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things which must happen soon. He sent it and made it known by his angel to his servant, John, who testified about everything that he saw: to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the one who reads the words of the prophecy and blessed are those who hear and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is at hand!

John, to the seven Churches that are in Asia [Minor]: May grace and peace be with you from God, [the one] who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven spirits who are before his throne; and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings ofthe earth. To him who loves us, washed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom and priests to his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion unto the ages. Amen.

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. It shall be so! Amen!

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

I John, your brother and partner with you in oppression, in the Kingdom and in perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God’s Word and the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last! What you see, write in a book and send to the seven Churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

I turned around to see the voice that had spoken to me. Having done so, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to his feet, and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and his hair were as white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like fine brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters. He had seven stars in his right hand and out of his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man.

He laid his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last, and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore! Amen. I have the keys of death and of hades. Therefore, write the things which you have seen, the things which are now and the things which will happen in the future. Write about the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven Churches and the seven lampstands are seven Churches.

***To the angel of the Church in Ephesus write:***

He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks among the seven golden lampstands says these things:

“I know your works, your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men. You have tested those who call themselves apostles although they are not and you have found them to be false. With perseverance you have endured much for my Name’s sake; you have worked hard and not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works. Otherwise, I am coming to you swiftly and I will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life which is in the Paradise of my God.”

***To the angel of the Church in Smyrna, write:***

The first and the last, who was dead and who has come to life says these things:

“I know your works, you oppression and your poverty (but you are rich). I know the blasphemy of those who say that they are Jews even though they are not; instead, they are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to endure. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. The one who overcomes will not be harmed by the second death.”

***To the angel of the Church in Pergamum, write:***

He who has the sharp two-edged sword says these things:

“I know your works and where you live, which is where Satan’s throne is located. You hold firmly to my Name and you have not denied my faith in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam. He was one who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans which I hate. Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. To the one who overcomes I will give [to eat] of the hidden manna and I will give a white stone. On the stone a new name is written, which no one knows but the one who receives it.”

***To the angel of the Church in Thyatira, write:***

The Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass, says these things:

“I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance and I know that your last works are more abundant than the first ones. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess. She seduces my servants by teaching them to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her into a bed [of pain] and I will throw those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, unless they repent of her works. I will kill her children with death and all the Churches will know that I am the one who searches the minds and hearts. I will render to each one of you according to your deeds. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, those who do not follow this teaching and who do not know what some call ‘the deep things of Satan,’ to you I say this: I am not putting any other burden on you. Nevertheless, hold what you have with determination until I come. To the ones who overcomes and who keeps my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations. They will rule the nations with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots; as I also have received of my Father: and I will give them the morning star. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

***And to the angel of the Church in Sardis write:***

He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars says these things:

“I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive when in fact you are dead. Wake up and hold on to what remains, which were about to die, for I have not found any of your works perfected before my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent! But if you refuse to watch, I will come as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. Nevertheless, you have a few names in Sardis that have not defiled their garments. They will walk with me in white [garments] because they are worthy. The one who overcomes will be vested in white garments and I will not blot his name from the book of life. I will confess that person’s name before my Father and before his angels. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

***To the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, write:***

He who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, who opens

and no one can shut, who shuts and no one opens, says these things:

“I know your works! Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut! I know that you have a little power, that you have kept my word and you have not denied my Name. Behold, those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and they are not, but lie. Behold, I will make them come and worship before your feet and they will know that I have loved you. Because you have kept my command to endure, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is about to come on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly! Hold firmly to what you have, so that no one may take your crown. The one who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the sanctuary of my God, from which he shall never be removed. On such a person I will write the Name of my God, the name of the city of my God which is the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from my God, and [I will write] my own new Name. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

***To the angel of the Church in Laodicea, write:***

The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the origin of God’s creation,

says these things:

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. But because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich, I have obtained wealth and I have need of nothing’ and yet you do not know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked! I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may become rich; and white garments, so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. Buy also ointment to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. As many as I love, I reprove and discipline. Therefore, be zealous and repent! Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and I will have supper with him, and he with me. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

After these things I looked and saw a door opened in heaven. The first voice that I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me. It was saying, “Come up here, and I will show you the things which must happen after this.”

Immediately, I was in the Spirit and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne who had the appearance of jasper and ruby. There was a rainbow around the throne with the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones were twenty-four presbyters sitting, vested in white robes, with crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne, lightning, sounds, and thunders came forth. There were seven lamps of fire burning before his throne, which are the seven spirits of God. Before the throne, there was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal. In the center and around the throne, there were four living creatures full of eyes on all sides. The first creature was like a lion, the second creature like a calf, the third creature had a human face and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each one of the four living creatures had six wings, full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!”*

When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives unto ages of ages, the twenty-four presbyters fall down before him who sits on the throne and they worship him who lives unto ages of ages. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created!”*

In the right hand of the one who sat on the throne, I saw a scroll written inside and outside, sealed shut with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?” But no one in heaven above, or on earth, or under the earth, was able to open the scroll or to look in it. And so I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look in it. One of the presbyters said to me:

*“Do not weep! Behold, the Lion who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome; he who opens the book and its seven seals.”*

I saw in the center of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the presbyters, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then the Lamb came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four presbyters fell down before the Lamb, each one having a harp and golden bowls full of **incense**, which are the prayers of the saints. They sang a new song, saying:

*You are worthy to take the book,*

*and to open its seals:*

*for you were killed,*

*and bought us for God with your blood,*

*out of every tribe, language, people, and nation.*

*You have made us kings and priests to our God,*

*and we will reign on earth.*

I saw and I heard something like the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the presbyters. The number of those speaking was ten thousands of ten thousands, and thousands of thousands. They were saying with a loud voice:

*“Worthy is the Lamb who has been killed to receive the power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing!”*

I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them, saying:

*“To him who sits on the throne,*

*and to the Lamb*

*be the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion,*

*unto ages of ages!”*

The four living creatures said, “Amen!”, and the twenty-four presbyters fell down and worshiped.

I saw that the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice of thunder, “Come and see!” And behold, there was a white horse and its rider had a bow. A crown was given to him, and he came forth to conquer and intent on conquering.

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. To its rider was given power to take peace from the earth, so that people should kill each other, and a great sword was given to him.

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come and see!” And behold, there was a black horse and its rider had a balance in his hand. I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a day’s wage and three quarts of barley for a day’s wage! Do not damage the oil and the wine!”

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature say, “Come and see!” And behold, a pale horse, and the name of its rider was Death, and Hades followed him. He was given authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine, with death, and by the wild animals of the earth.

When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed for the sake of the word of God and for their witness to the Lamb. They cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, holy and true Master, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” A long white robe was given to each of them. They were told to rest for a while longer, until their fellow-servants and brethren (who would also be killed as they were) should complete their course.

When the Lamb opened the sixth seal, I saw that there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as a coarse sackcloth, and the whole moon became as blood. The stars of the sky fell to the earth, like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when it is shaken by a great wind. The sky was removed like a scroll when it is rolled up. Every mountain and island were removed from their places. At this, the kings of the earth, the princes, commanding officers, the rich, the strong, every slave and free person sought to hide themselves in the caves and the rocks of the mountains. They said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of his wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. They were holding the four winds of the earth so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. I saw another angel ascend from the rising sun with the seal of the living God [in his hand]. He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of our God on their foreheads!” I heard the number of those who were sealed: one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel:

*of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand,*

*of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.*

After these things I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried with a loud voice, saying:

*“Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”*

All the angels were standing around the throne, along with the presbyters and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before his throne and worshiped God, saying:

*“Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God unto ages of ages! Amen.”*

Then one of the presbyters spoke and asked me, “Who are these who are arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” I told him, “My lord, you know!”

He said to me, “These are those who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and they offer divine service to him day and night in his sanctuary. He who sits on the throne will tabernacle with them. They will never be hungry or thirsty any more. Neither heat not sun will ever scorch them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne is their shepherd. He leads them to the springs of the waters of life and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. I saw the seven angels who stand before God and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer. A lot of **incense** was given to him, so that the angel should add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. The smoke of the **incense**, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand. The angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it upon the earth, causing thunder, voices, lightning and an earthquake.

Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

The first sounded, and there followed hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. One third of the earth was burnt up and also one third of the trees, along with all green grass.

The second angel sounded, and something like a great burning mountain was thrown into the sea. One third of the sea became blood, one third of the living creatures which were in the sea died, and one third of the ships were destroyed.

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one third of the rivers and on the springs of the waters. The name of the star is “Wormwood” and one third of the waters became wormwood. Many people died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

The fourth angel sounded, and one third of the sun was struck, one third of the moon, and one third of the stars, so that one third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way. Then I saw and heard an eagle flying in mid-heaven, proclaiming with a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe to those who dwell on the earth, because the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels are yet to sound!”

The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth. The key to the pit of the abyss was given to him. He opened the pit of the abyss and smoke went up out of the pit, like smoke from an enormous burning furnace. The sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke from the pit. Then, out of the smoke, locusts came forth on the earth and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, or anything green or any tree, but only those people who do not have God’s seal on their foreheads. They were given power not to kill them but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion, when it strikes a person. In those days, people will seek death and will not find it. They will desire to die, but death will flee from them. The locusts had the appearance of horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like golden crowns, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like women’s hair and their teeth were like those of lions. They had breastplates, like breastplates of iron. The sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, or of many horses rushing to war. They have tails like those of scorpions, and stings. In their tails, they have power to harm men for five months. They have over them as [their] king the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is “Abaddon,” but in Greek, he has the name “Apollyon.” The first disaster is past. Behold, there are still two woes coming after this.

The sixth angel sounded. I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God saying to the sixth angel who had one trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!”

Then the four angels who had been prepared for that hour and day and month and year were released so that they might kill one third of mankind. The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard their number. Then, I saw the horses in the vision, and those who sat on them, having breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and they had the heads of lions. Fire, smoke, and sulfur come out of their mouths. By these three plagues, one third of mankind was killed: by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur which came out of their mouths. Indeed, the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like snakes, and these have heads with which they cause harm. The rest of mankind, those who were not killed with these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not cease worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, idols which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk. They did not repent from their murders, or sorceries, or from their sexual immorality, or from their thefts.

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, robed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet were like pillars of fire. He had in his hand a little open scroll. He set his right foot on the sea, and his left on the land. He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars, and when he shouted, the seven thunders uttered their voices. When the seven thunders sounded, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have pronounced, and do not write them!”

Then the angel I saw standing on sea and land lifted up his right hand to the sky. He swore by him who lives unto ages of ages, him who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it. He swore that there would be no more delay. But in the days when the voice of the seventh angel is about to sound, then the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as he has announced to his servants the prophets. Again, the voice I heard from heaven spoke to me and said, “Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.”

So I went to the angel, asking him to give me the little scroll.

He answered, “Take it and eat it! It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be as sweet as honey.”

I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but after eating the scroll, my stomach became bitter. I was told, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”

A reed like a rod was then given to me. I was told, “Rise, and measure God’s sanctuary, and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the sanctuary; do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations. They will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for one thousand two hundred sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands who stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone desires to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Whoever desires to harm them will be killed in this way. They have the power to shut up the sky, so that it may not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes out of the abyss will attack them, overcome them, and kill them. Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, and where their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days, people from tribes, languages, and nations will look at their dead bodies, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. The people of the world rejoice over them and celebrate the event, exchanging gifts because these two prophets tormented the inhabitants of the earth.

After the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood up on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. Then I heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up into heaven in the cloud as their enemies were watching. In that day, a great earthquake occurred and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people died in the earthquake, and the rest, terrified, gave glory to the God of heaven. The second disaster is past. Behold, the third one comes quickly.

The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign unto the ages of ages!”

Then the twenty-four presbyters who sit on their thrones before God’s throne fell on their faces. They worshiped God and said, “We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, <and who is coming>; because you have assumed your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged. The time has come to give their reward your slaves the prophets, and also to the saints and to those who fear your Name, to the small and the great. And the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth!”

Then God’s sanctuary in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Lord’s covenant was seen in his sanctuary! Lightnings, sounds, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail followed.

And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun! The moon was under her feet and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. She was with child, crying out in pain, in labor to give birth. Another sign was seen in heaven. Behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven crowns. His tail drew one third of the stars of heaven and threw them down to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was caught up to God, and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God so that she may be nourished one thousand two hundred sixty days.

A war took place in heaven: Michael and his angels made war on the dragon, and the dragon and his angels made war. But they did not prevail, and no longer was there any place found for him in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now has come the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony. They did not love their life, even to death. Therefore, rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he only has a short time.”

When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he began to persecute the woman who had given birth to the male child. Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly from the face of the serpent [and escape] into the wilderness to her place and be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from his mouth, the serpent spewed water like a river after the woman, so that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing up the river which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. The dragon became enraged with the woman and departed to make war with the rest of her seed, those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

I then stood on the seashore and saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads, blasphemous names. The beast which I saw was like a leopard; his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth was like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. One of his heads looked like it had been wounded fatally, but his fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled at the beast. They worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” A mouth speaking great things and blasphemy was given to the beast, and authority to make war for forty-two months. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to slander his Name, and his habitation, and those who dwell in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints, and to overcome them. Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not, from the foundation of the world, been written in the book of life of the Lamb who has been killed. Let anyone who has an ear listen: If anyone is to go into captivity, he will go into captivity. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, he must be killed. Hereis {a call for} the patient endurance and the faith of the saints.

Then saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his behalf and makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship before the first beast, [the one] whose fatal wound had been healed. He performs great signs, even making fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the sight of people. He deceives my own people who dwell on the earth because of the signs he was granted to perform in front of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast that was wounded by the sword and [yet] lived. It was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast so that it should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to be given marks on their right hands or on their foreheads. Hence, no one would be able to buy or sell, unless he has that mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom: let anyone who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is six hundred sixty-six.

Then I looked, and behold, [I saw] the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with him one hundred and forty-four thousand who have his Name, and the Name of his Father written on their foreheads. I also heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of a great thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing on their harps and they sing a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the presbyters. No one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand, those who had been redeemed out of the earth. These are those who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were redeemed by Jesus from among mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. In their mouth was found no lie, for they are blameless.

Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an eternal Good News to proclaim to the inhabitants of the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He said with a loud voice, “Fear the Lord, and give him glory! For the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of waters!”

A second angel followed and said, “Babylon the great has fallen, which has made all the nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality .”

Another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a great voice, “Anyone who worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on the forehead or the hand, will also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger. They will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. The smoke of their torment goes up unto the ages of ages. Those who worship the beast and his image, and all those who receive the mark of his name have no rest day or night. Here is {a call for} the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their works follow with them.”

I looked, and behold, [I saw] a white cloud, and on the cloud someone like a Son of Man was sitting. He had on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the sanctuary. With a loud voice, he cried to the one sitting on the cloud, “Send forth your sickle, and reap! The hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe!” He who sat on the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Another angel came out from the sanctuary which is in heaven. He too had a sharp sickle. And another angel who has power over fire came out from the altar. He called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth! For the earth’s grapes are fully ripe!” So the angel swung his sickle on the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. The winepress was trodden outside of the city, and blood came out from the winepress, as high the bridles of horses, and as far as one thousand six hundred stadia.

Then I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues, for in those last plagues God’s wrath is completed. I also saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who overcame the beast, his image, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass. They held harps given to them by God and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

*Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God, the Almighty!*

*Righteous and true are your ways, you King of the nations.*

*Who would not fear you, Lord, and glorify your Name?*

*For you only are holy.*

*Certainly, all the nations welcome and worship before you,*

*For your righteous deeds have been revealed.*

After these things, I looked: the sanctuary, the tabernacle ofthe testimony in heaven was opened. The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out, robed with pure, bright linen and wearing golden sashes around their chests.

One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives unto ages of ages. And the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one was able to enter into the sanctuary, until the seven plagues of the seven angels would be finished.

Then I heard a loud voice out of the sanctuary, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth!”

The first [angel] went, poured out his bowl on the earth. [At once], a foul and painful sore came upon the people who had [received] the mark of the beast and who had worshiped his image.

The second [angel] poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood, as the blood of a dead man, and in the sea, every living thing died.

The third [angel] poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they too became blood. I heard the angel of the waters saying, “You are righteous, the one who is who were, you Holy One, because you have passed judgment. They poured out the blood of the saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve this.” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments!”

The fourth [angel] poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch people with fire. They were scorched with great heat and blasphemed the Name of God who has the power over these plagues, but they did not repent and give him glory.

The fifth [angel] poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was darkened. People gnawed their tongues in agony and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, but they did not repent of their works.

The sixth [angel] poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings that come from the sunrise. Then, I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons who perform [miraculous] signs and go forth to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them for the war of the great day of God the Almighty .

“Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who watches and keeps his clothes in order not to walk naked and be shamefully exposed.”

And the kings were gathered to the place which is called in Hebrew, Megiddo.

The seventh [angel] poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the sanctuary of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is accomplished!” There were lightnings, sounds, and thunders. Then there was a great earthquake, such as had not taken place since there were humans on the earth, so great and so powerful. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of God, so that she would be given the cup of wine of the intensity of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains were not found. Great hailstones, about the weight of a talent, fell from the sky on people, and they blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, because this plague is extremely severe.

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here! I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters. The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality.” He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored animal, [which was] full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of the sexual immorality of the earth. And on her forehead a name was written, “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I was filled with great amazement. The angel asked me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast you saw was, and is not; and it is about to come up out of the abyss and to go into destruction. Those who dwell on the earth and whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see that the beast was, now is not, and yet will come. This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. They are seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must remain for a little while. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also an eighth [king]. He belongs to the seven and goes to destruction. The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings, along with the beast, for one hour. They have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and those with him are called, elect and faithful.” The angel said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. The ten horns which you saw, and the beast, they will hate the prostitute and make her desolate; they will make her naked, eat her flesh, and will burn her completely with fire. For God has put in their hearts to do what he has in mind, and to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

After these things, I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. He cried with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling-place of demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, and a shelter for every unclean and detestable bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality: the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich from the abundance of her luxury.”

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you may have no participation in her sins, and so that you may not receive any of her plagues. For her sins have reached up to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Give back to her just as she returned, and repay her double as she did, and according to her works. In the cup which she mixed, mix to her double. As much as she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, give her torment and mourning. For she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow! I will never see mourning.’ Therefore, in one day, her plagues will come: death, mourning, and famine; and she will be utterly burned with fire; for the Lord God who has judged her is mighty. The kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her will weep and wail over her when they look at the smoke of her burning. They will stand far away terrified at her torment, saying: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, Babylon, the city of power! Your doom has come in one hour.’ The merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise any more; merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all expensive wood, every vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble; and cinnamon, **incense**, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, sheep, horses, chariots, and people’s bodies and souls. The fruits which your soul lusted after have been lost to you, and all things that were splendid and sumptuous have perished from you, and you will never find them again. The merchants of these things, who were made rich by her, will stand far away terrified by her torment, weeping and mourning; saying: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, she who was dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls! In an hour such great riches are made desolate.’ Every shipmaster, and everyone who sails anywhere, and sailors, and all those who earn their living by sea, stood far away. They cried out as they looked at the smoke of her burning, saying: ‘What city was like the great city?’ They cast dust on their heads, and cried. Weeping and mourning, they exclaimed: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, in which all who had their ships in the sea were made rich by through her wealth!’ For in one hour she has been laid waste!

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, you saints, apostles, and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!” A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, “In this way, with violence, Babylon the great city will be thrown down and never more be found. The voice of harpists, musicians, flute players and trumpeters will never more be heard in you. No craftsman, of whatever craft, will be found any more in you. The sound of a mill will never again be heard in you. The light of a lamp will never more shine in you. The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride will never again be heard in you, for your merchants were the princes of the earth, and by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. In her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all those who have been slain on the earth.”

After these things, I heard something like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, exclaiming, “**Alleluia**! Salvation, power, and glory belong to our God, for true and righteous are his judgments! For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his servants [who had suffered] at her hand.”

A second [voice] said, “**Alleluia**! Her smoke shall ascend unto the ages of ages.” Then the twenty-four presbyters and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne, saying, “Amen! **Alleluia**!”

A voice came forth from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great!”

And I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the roar of many waters, and like the peal of mighty thunders, saying, “**Alleluia**! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! Let us rejoice and be extremely glad, and let us give the glory to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself!” To her it has been granted that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen: for the fine linen represents the righteous deeds of the saints.

He said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” He also told me, “These are true words of God!.”

I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! And its rider is called Faithful and True. He judges and make war in righteousness. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a Name written which no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood, and His Name is “The Word of God.” The heavenly hosts followed him on white horses, clothed in white, pure, fine linen. Out of his mouth comes a sharp, double-edged sword by which he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. He has on his garment and on his thigh a Name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the sky, “Come! Be gathered together for the supper of the great God! You may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and riders, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, small and great.” I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war against the one who sat on the horse, and against his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked the signs in his sight and by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword of him who sat on the horse, with the sword which came forth out of his mouth. And all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh.

Then I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole inhabited earth. The angel bound the dragon for a thousand years and cast him into the abyss. It was shut and sealed over him, so that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he is to be released for a short time.

I saw thrones on which those who had received authority to pass judgment were seated. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or his image and who has not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection! Over these, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for one thousand years.

After the millennium, Satan will be released from his prison and he will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog. He will gather them together to the war, and their number is as the sand of the sea. They marched over the breadth of the land and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Fire came down from God out of heaven and they were consumed. The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night, unto ages of ages.

Then I saw a great white throne, and the one seated on it. Earth and the heaven fled away from his face: no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened: the book of life. The dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to their works. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, death and hades gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works. Then death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire! Anyone who was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with people! He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes! Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, crying, or pain any more. The first things have passed away.”

The one who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new!” He said, “Write, for these words of God are faithful and true!” He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To whoever is thirsty, I will freely give from the spring of the water of life. To the one who overcomes, I will give these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls loaded with the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!” In the Spirit, he carried me away to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. She had the glory of God; her radiance was like a most precious stone, as if it was a jasper stone, clear as crystal. She had a great and high wall with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve angels and names were written on the gates: the names of the Twelve tribes of the children of Israel. On the east were three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who spoke with me held a golden reed as a measuring unit to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. The city was laid our as a square: its length is as great as its breadth. He measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand twelve stadia. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then the angel measured its wall: one hundred forty-four cubits, by the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. Its wall are built with jasper and the city was pure gold, like pure glass. The foundations of the city’s wall were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was **jasper**; the second, **sapphire**; the third, **chalcedony**; the fourth, **emerald**; the fifth, **sardonyx**; the sixth, **sardius**; the seventh, **chrysolite**; the eighth, **beryl**; the ninth, **topaz**; the tenth, **chrysoprasus**; the eleventh, **jacinth**; and the twelfth, **amethyst**. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each one of the gates was made of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its sanctuary. The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light; the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates will not be shut by day (for there will be no night there), and the nations will come, bringing their splendor and tribute. Nothing profane will enter into the city, or anyone who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

The angel showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of it great street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations, and the curse will be abolished. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants offer him divine service. They will see his face, and his Name will be on their foreheads. There will be no night, and they need no lamp light, for the Lord God will illuminate them, and they will reign unto ages of ages.

The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true! The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to show to his servants the things which must happen soon.”

“Behold, I come quickly! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. He said to me, “See that you do not do it! I am a fellow- servant with you and with your brethren the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” He also said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the unclean still be unclean, and the righteous still do right, and the holy be holy still.”

“Behold, I come quickly! My reward is with me, to repay to each one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End! Blessed are those who observe his commandments, so that they may have access to the tree of life and may enter into the city through the gates. But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to you for the Churches. I am the root and the offspring of David; the Bright and Morning Star!”

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let everyone who hears say, “Come!” Let everyone who is thirsty come, let anyone who wishes take the water of life freely.

I bear witness to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, may God add to him the plagues which are written in this book. If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, may God take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book. He who attests these things says, “Yes, I come quickly!”

Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.

### The Ninth Hour of Bright Saturday

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 45:15-20

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.’ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

For thus says the Lord, who made heaven—this is the God who formed the earth and made it. He established it, and did not make it in vain, but formed it to be inhabited—“I Am, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, nor in a dark place of the earth. I did not say to the seed of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in vain.’ I Am, I am the Lord who speaks righteousness and declares the truth. Assemble yourselves and come. Take counsel together, you who are saved from among the nations. Those who set up the wood of their carved image have no knowledge, and pray to gods who do not save.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Jeremiah 38:31-34

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Behold, days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them,” says the Lord. “For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” says the Lord. “I will surely put My laws into their mind and write them on their hearts. I will be as God to them, and they shall be as My people. Each shall not teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoings, and I will no longer remember their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Liturgy Gospel of Bright Saturday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:1-22

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:1-9

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:12-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you. He must remained in heaven until the times of restoration of all things, which God announced long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Eleventh Hour of Bright Saturday (Distribution)

#### My God, My God

O God, my God, attend to me;

why have You forsaken me?

The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation.

O my God, I will cry out by day, and You will not hear,

and by night, yet it is not foolish of me. (Psalm 21:2, 3)

But I am a worm, and not a man;

a reproach of men, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they say with their lips and shake their heads,

“He trusted in the Lord. Let Him rescue him;

let Him save him, if He wanted him.” (Psalm 21:7, 8, 9)

Do not leave me when trouble is near,

for there is no one to help.

Many young bulls surround me;

fat bulls surround me.

They open their mouths at me,

like a raging and roaring lion. (Psalm 21:12, 13, 14)

For a pack of dogs surround me,

and an assembly of evil doers enclose me.

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

They counted all my bones;

they look and stare at me.

They divided my garments among themselves,

and they cast lots for my clothing.

But You, O Lord, do not remove Your help;

attend to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,

my only one from the power of the dog.

Save me from the mouth of the lion,

and my lowliness from the horns of unicorns. (Psalm 21:17-22)

He lifts me high on a rock.

And now, behold, He lifted my head above my enemies; (Psalm 26:5d, 6a)

Those who repay me evil for good

slandered me because I pursue righteousness.

And they cast me off, [I,] the beloved, like a horrid corpse[.

And they put nails in My flesh.]

Do not forsake me, O Lord;

O my God, do not be far from me.

Come to my help,

O Lord of my salvation. (Psalm 37:21-23)

I waited for someone to sympathize with me, but there was none,

and for comforters, but I did not find one.

And they gave me gall for my food,

and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let their table be a snare before them,

a retribution and a stumbling-block.

Let their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,

and bend their backs continually.

Pour out Your wrath upon them,

and let the fury of Your wrath overtake them.

Let their dwelling place be laid waste,

and let no one live in their tents.

For they persecute the one whom You struck, (Psalm 68:21b-27a)

You will guide me and sustain me

for Your Name’s sake.

You will bring me out from this snare,

which they have hidden for me,

for You are my protector, O Lord.

I will entrust my spirit into Your hands. (Psalm 30:4b-6a)

They add to the pain of My wounds.

Add iniquity to their iniquity,

and let them not enter into Your righteousness.

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,

and not be enrolled among the righteous.

I am poor and in pain,

And the salvation of Your presence, O god, supports me. (Psalm 68:27b-30)

They laid me in the deepest pit,

in dark places and in the shadow of death.

Your wrath was fixed upon me,

and You brought all Your waves upon me. (Psalm 87:7, 8)

He goes out, and speaks of it.

My enemies whisper together against me;

they devise evils against me.

They spread a false report against me.

“Surely since He is asleep, He will not rise up again?” (Psalm 40:7c-9)

I lay down and slept;

I woke, for the Lord will support me. (Psalm 3:6)

“What profit is there in my blood,

by my going down to corruption?

Will the dust confess You,

or will it declare Your truth? (Psalm 29:10)

And He brought me up out of the pit of misery

and from the miry clay. (Psalm 39:3ab)

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;

the Lord became my helper.

You have turned my mourning into dancing;

You have torn off my sackcloth

and clothed me with gladness. (Psalm 29:11, 12)

For there is wrath is in His anger,

but life is His will;

in the evening weeping may pitch its tent,

but joy comes with the morning. (Psalm 29:6)

Then was our mouth filled with joy,

and our tongue with rejoicing.

Then they will say among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things with us,

and we became glad.

Return, O Lord, our captivity

like torrents in the South. (Psalm 125:2-4)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Now and at al ltimes, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

# Paschaltide

## The Bright Resurrection of Christ, The Pascha of the Lord

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:23-50

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ’s, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, “He put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when he says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived! “Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised?” and, “With what kind of body do they return?” You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own. Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:15-22

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:22-28

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*‘I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that anything be written to you. You know well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. When they are saying, “Peace and safety,” then a sudden destruction will come upon them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness to allow the day to overtake you like a thief. You are all children of light, and children of the day. We do not belong to the night, or to the darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be clear minded. Those who sleep, sleep in the night, and those who are drunk are drunk in the night. But let us, since we belong to the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, which is what you [already] do.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-25

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

\*episcopos, bishop

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:6-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam’s disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. And so, as through one sin all men were condemned; likewise through one act of 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.

### Wednesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal immortality, then what is written will come true, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

*Death, where is your sting?*

*Hades, where is your victory?*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:10-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:1-13

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 1:15-2:3

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For this same reason, I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation to bring you to full knowledge of him. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you experience the hope of his calling and know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. May you also experience the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to his power and might which he accomplished in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places. Yes, Christ now sits above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God put all things in subjection under his feet and granted him to be head over all things for the sake of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:8-15

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-22

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name.” They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:10-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25-2:10

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

*But the word of the Lord endures forever.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God’s people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:34-42

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ Therefore, he also says in another psalm, ‘You will not allow your holy one to see decay.’ Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*‘Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.’*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:12-23

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-7

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## Thomas Sunday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:20-32

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:16-34

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Others suggested, “He seems to be advocating foreign deities,” because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] ‘the resurrection’.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” Now, all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being!’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We want to hear you again on this matter.”

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-4

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-7

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:1-4

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:7-10

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I may be blessed by the will of God to come to you.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:6-10

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:5-7

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:11-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift with the purpose that you may be established; that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:1-6

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:8-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:16-17

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For in the Gospel God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-10

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old 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.

### Friday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:19-21a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:11-14

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God’s word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:21-25

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:31-35

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!” And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Third Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:19-3:9

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>.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:10-20

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:4-7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Or do you despise the riches of God’s goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:15-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will ofGod remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:23-27a

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage,*

*and the peoples plot a vain thing?*

*The kings of the earth take a stand,*

*and the rulers take council together,*

*against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:8-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but unrighteousness, there will be retribution and intense wrath, oppression and anguish. Trouble and distress will come to everyone who does evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

But glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, because there is no partiality with God. Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:18-23

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Children, these are the end times! As you have heard, the Antichrist is coming and even now many 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.

### Wednesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:14-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

(Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:21-25

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:32-35

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and [one] soul. Not one of them claimed that anything he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. With great power, the apostles gave their witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. No one among them lacked anything because those who owned lands or houses sold them, and they brought the proceeds what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles. Then, distribution was made to each, according to everyone’s need.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:17-20

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:26-3:1

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God’s children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:1-6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:25-29

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, circumcision gains something if you are a doer of the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. And so, if an uncircumcised man keeps the ordinances of the law, will not his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision? Will not the uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfills the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law? For one is not a Jew by being so outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh. Instead, someone is a Jew by being one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter. For their praise is not from men, but from God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:2-3

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:5-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?”

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 3:5-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness,” know, therefore, that those who are of faith are likewise Abraham’s children. As foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, the Scripture announced the future Good News to Abraham by saying, “In you all the nations will be blessed.” And so, those of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham. But those who depend on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written:

*“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.”*

Now, it is obvious that no one is justified by the law before God, because “The righteous will live by faith.”

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:2-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:12-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon’s porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Fourth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:1-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

If you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God! Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-24

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:37-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:4-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:8b-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should not be like Cain who was of the 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 which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One [officer] came forward and told them, “Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:19-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person?

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:27-29

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem

with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:13-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:8-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong theglory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:22-26

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God’s patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:18-24a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:30-33

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God has exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior in order to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins. We are his witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Hearing this, they were enraged and determined to kill them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:27-31

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:1-6a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater 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.Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we can discern the

spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-36

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 1:1-14

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of his glory!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-5:1a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:36-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not to delay in coming to help us!” So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Fifth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

As for other matters, brethren, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it is with you. Pray also that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, he will establish you and guard you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you accomplish and will continue to accomplish the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the endurance of Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:8-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother’s womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, “Stand up on your feet!” And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” They called Barnabas “Jupiter,” and Paul “Mercury,” because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, “Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself withoutwitness: 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 stoodaround him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:4-9

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:21-24

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:37-41

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:9b-12a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they areuncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to t em. 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 inthis way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:40b-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*‘Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,*

*the star of your god Rephan,*

*the figures which you made to worship.*

*I will carry you awayi beyond Babylon.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:20-6:4

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-19

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:44-50

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*‘Heaven is my throne,*

*and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord;*

*‘or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:5-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:18-5:1

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We lovehim, 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 havereceived from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:51-54

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:17-22

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and everincreasing wickedness, now offer your members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at thattime 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 hiscommandments, 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 onewho believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:1b-4

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In that day, a great persecution arose against the Church which was in Jerusalem. The disciples were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and greatly lamented over him. In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:1-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,*

*but you prepared a body for me;*

*You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come*

*(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)*

*to do your will, O God.’*

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them” (those which are offered according to the law), and then he said, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He takes away the first so that he may establish the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:11-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 Sixth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:19-38a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses’ law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of God and 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.

### Monday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:2-5

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh; so that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:9-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! 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.

### Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:9-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:9-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:27-29

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 7:1-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a person for as long as that person lives? Hence, the woman who has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. Thereforce, 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 recognizesin, 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 lifand 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.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:6b-10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

And they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Feast of the Ascension

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 3:13-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Those who have served well earn for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I write to you these things, hoping to come to you shortly. If I am delayed, I want you to know how the people should behave in the house of

God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without a doubt, great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was revealed in the flesh,*

*vindicated in the spirit,*

*seen by angels,*

*preached among the nations,*

*believed on in the world,*

*and received up in glory.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:1-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God’s Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.”

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

Jesus told them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven.”

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and hold firm to the traditions as I delivered them to you. But I desire you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered dishonors his head. But every woman praying or prophesying with her head unveiled dishonors her head, and it is as if she were shaved. Indeed, if a woman does not wear a head covering, she should be shaved; and if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, then let her be covered. Certainly, a man should not have his head covered, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. Man is not from woman, but woman from man; for man was not created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this cause, a woman should have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Nevertheless, in the Lord, a woman is not independent from the man or a man independent from the woman. For as woman came from man, so a man also comes [to life] through a woman; but all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it appropriate that a woman pray to God unveiled? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, because her hair is given to her as a covering. But if anyone wishes to dispute these things, we have no other custom, and neither do God’s Churches.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:14-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 22:6-10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:8-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever 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 Seventh Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:57-16:8

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Now, concerning the collection for the saints, do as I instructed the Churches of Galatia. On the first day of the week, each one of you should put aside and reserve according to God’s blessing, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, I will send whoever you approve with letters to carry your gracious gift to Jerusalem. If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will accompany me. But I will come to you when I have passed through Macedonia, since I have to go through Macedonia. I may also stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my journey. For I do not wish to see you just in passing, but I hope to stay with you for a while, if the Lord permits. But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:2c-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we arrived in Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Monday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:12-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit ofadoption, 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.

### Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:22-27

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John 8-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:20b-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:28-39

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John 1-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:4-9

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!”

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Thursday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:5-11

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John 10-14

The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:7-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Friday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:12-17

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 22-25

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:13-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Saturday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:31b-14:4

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:12-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:15-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: “Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called ‘Akeldama,’ that is, ‘The field of blood.’)

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*‘Let his habitation be made desolate,*

*And let no one dwell in it;’*

and,

*‘Let another take his office of overseer.’*

Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John and to the day that he was taken up from us, of these [men], one must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

So, they put forward two [candidates]: Joseph called Barsabbas who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Feast of Pentecost

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:1-31a

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were Gentiles, you were enticed and led away to those mute idols. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by God’s Spirit can says, “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 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 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 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.

# Needs

## Baptism

### The Prayer of the Naming on the Seventh Day After Birth

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:5-12

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten you*

and again:

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son?*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*“Let all the angels of God worshipi him.”*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Churching of the Mother after the Birth of a Boy

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:5-12

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Churching of the Mother after the Birth of a Girl

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:5-12

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As for other cases, I (not the Lord) say this: if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and if she is content to live with him, let him not leave her. [Likewise,] the woman who has an unbelieving husband who is content to live with her should not leave her husband. This is because the unbelieving husband is sanctified in his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but in fact, they are holy.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Hallowing of the Waters of Holy Baptism

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Titus 2:11-3:7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:5-14

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:26-39

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.”

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.”

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, “Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?”

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a placed with] some water, and the eunuch said, “Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?”

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Prayer Eight Days After the Baptism

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

## Marriage

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 5:22-6:3

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands as [you are] to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the Church, being himself the savior of the body. As the Church is subject to Christ, wives should likewise be subject to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her in order to sanctify her, having purified her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the Church to himself in glory, without any spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and flawless. In the same way, a husband should love his wife as his [own] body. He who loves his own wife loves himself! No man ever hates his own body but feeds it and cares for it, as the Lord also does for the Church. Yes, we are members of his body, his very flesh and bones!

*For this cause a man will leave his father and mother, and will be joined to*

*his wife. The two will become one flesh.*

This is a great mystery: I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Now concerning you: each one of you must also love his own wife even as his own self; and the wife must respect her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with abpromise: “that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

## Consecrations and Ordinations

### Home Blessings

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:14-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Alternate Home Blessings (Composed by Heg. Fr. Athanasius Iskander)

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is certain that we groan in this [tent], longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling; so that being clothed we will not be found naked. We who are in this tent are truly groaning as we are burdened; but it is not that we desire to be unclothed; rather, we desire to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now, the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also gave us the pledge of the Spirit.

Therefore, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight. I dare say that we are courageous and that we would rather be absent from the body and at home with the Lord. And so, we make this our aim: that whether at home or absent, we would be well-pleasing to him. For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what was done in the body; good or evil.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Monks

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 12:1-7

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father’s house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed.” Then Abram departed as the Lord said to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son and all their possessions and every soul they acquired in Haran, and they departed for the land of Canaan. Thus they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your seed I will give this land.” And there Abram built an altar to the Lord, who appeared to him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Deuteronomy 8:1-9

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 2:1-9

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:10-20

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Reception of a New Presbyter

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Presbyters who rule well should be accounted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in preaching and teaching. As the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Do not receive an accusation against a presbyter, except at the word of two or three witnesses. Reprove those who have sinned in the sight of all, so that the others may also be in fear. I command you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels: observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay your hands hastily on anyone and do not be a participant in someone else’s sins. Keep yourself pure. Do not drink only water but use a little wine for your stomach and because of your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious long before they come to judgment while others are discovered only later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Those who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of all honor, so that God’s Name and our doctrine may not be brought into disrepute. Slaves whose masters are believers should not despise them because they are brethren. Rather, they should them serve them because those who have a share in the benefit [of their work] are believing and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Patriarchs

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 4:14-5:6

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for assistance in time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed for their sake in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for [their] sins. The high priest can deal gently with those who are ignorant and going astray since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for the sins for the people as well as for himself. Moreover, nobody assumes this honor by himself but one is called by God, just as Aaron was. Likewise, Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was God who said to him:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.*

As he says also in another place,

*You are a priest forever,*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.*

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Cornerstone

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 28:1-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Mesopotamia, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. May God bless you, and increase and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of nations; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your seed with you, that you may inherit the land of your sojourning, which God gave to Abraham.” So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Mesopotamia, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Mesopotamia to take himself a wife from there, and as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,” and Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Mesopotamia. Also, Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God’s house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:1-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Church

#### The Prophecies

##### Genesis 1:1-2:3

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day.

Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water”; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day.

Then God said, “Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth.” It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day.

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night. Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth.” It was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the waters bring forth creatures having life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven’s firmament.” It was so. Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth.” So evening and morning were the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind.” It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.” So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them. Then God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life.” It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Genesis 28:10-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God’s house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 25:1-26:30

From the book of Exosdus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, that they take first fruits from everyone who gives it willingly from the heart. Thus you shall take My first fruits. This is the offering you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet cloth, fine spun linen; and female goats’ hair, ram skins dyed red and skins dyed blue, and incorruptible wood; oil for the light, and incense for anointing oil and for the composition of incense; sardius stones, and stones for the carved work of the breastplate and the full-length robe. Also, you shall make Me a sanctuary, and I will appear among you. According to all I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, so you shall make it.

“Thus you shall make the ark of testimony from incorruptible wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. You shall overlay it with pure gold; inside and out you shall overlay it and shall make on it a wreath of gold all around. You shall cast four golden rings for it and put them on its four corners; two rings on one side and two rings on the other. You shall make poles of incorruptible wood and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall remain fixed in the rings of the ark. Then you shall put into the ark the testimonies I will give you.

“You shall also make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. Then you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimonies I will give you. There I will make Myself known to you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of testimony, about everything I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

“You shall also make a golden table of pure gold; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. You shall make for it golden wreaths twisted all around, and also a crown of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a twisted wreath of gold for the crown all around. You shall make four golden rings for it and put the rings on the four corners of its four legs under the crown. The rings shall be bearings for the poles, so they may bear the table with them. And you shall make the poles of incorruptible wood and overlay them with pure gold, that the table may be carried with them. You shall make its dishes, censers, bowls, and cups of pure gold, that you may offer drink offerings with them; and you shall set the bread on the table before Me continually.

“You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold which shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, branches, and bowls, and its stem and corolla shall be of one piece. Six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side and three branches out of the other. Three bowls shall be made like almonds on each branch, with its ornamental knobs and lilies—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almonds, and each with its ornamental knob and lilies. There shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make its seven lamps, and you will lay the lamps upon them. From this one presence they will shine outward. You shall make its funnels and dishes of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. And see to it you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

“Now you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen, with blue, purple, and scarlet fabric, and you shall weave them with artistic designs of cherubim. The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits and the width of each curtain four cubits. Each curtain shall have the same measurements. Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. You shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the curtain of the second set. Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain at the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another. You shall make fifty clasps of gold and couple the curtains together with the clasps, that it may be one tabernacle.

“You shall also make curtains of goats’ hair skins to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven such curtains. The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements. You shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the outermost curtain in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. You shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. The remaining remnant of the tent’s curtains, that is, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. A cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side of the remaining length of the tent’s curtains shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it. You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and blue skins as coverings above that.

“You shall make the tabernacle posts out of incorruptible wood. Ten cubits shall be the length of each post, and a cubit and a half its width. Two joints shall be made in each post for binding one to another. Thus you shall do for all the posts of the tabernacle. Thus you shall make the posts for the tabernacle, twenty for the north side. You shall make forty bases of silver for the twenty posts: two bases for each of the two joints of the posts. For the second side of the tabernacle, the south side, there shall be twenty posts, and their forty bases of silver: two bases for each of the posts’ two joints. For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six posts. You shall also make two posts for the two back corners of the tabernacle. They shall be coupled together at the bottom and at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be equal. So there shall be eight posts with their sixteen bases of silver, two bases for both sides of each post.

“You shall make bars of incorruptible wood: five for the posts on one side of the tabernacle, five bars for the posts on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the posts of the side of the tabernacle toward the sea. The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the posts from end to end. You shall overlay the posts with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold. Then you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern shown you on the mountain.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 30:17-31:13

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of testimony and the altar. You shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet with water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of testimony, they shall wash with water, lest they die, or when they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord. So they shall wash their hands and feet with water when they go into the tabernacle of testimony, lest they die. It shall be an ordinance forever to them—for him and his genealogy after him.”

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels’ worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests. You shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil throughout your generations. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any like it according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.’ ”

And the Lord said to Moses, “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and sweet galbanum, and pure frankincense; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these perfumed incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, mixed, pure, and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine and put some of it before the testimonies in the tabernacle of testimony, where I will make Myself known to you. It shall be a most holy incense to you. You shall not make any for yourselves according to this composition. It shall be to you a holy thing for the Lord. Whoever makes any like it to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.”

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the divine Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and in every manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in every manner of workmanship. Indeed I have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put understanding in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, so they may make all I commanded you: the tabernacle of testimony, the ark of the testimony and the mercy seat on it, and all the utensils of the tabernacle—the altars and the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, and the laver and its base—the liturgical garments for Aaron and the garments of his sons, to minister to Me as priests, and the anointing oil and the compound incense for the holy place. According to all I have commanded you they shall do.”

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall direct the children of Israel, saying, ‘See to it that you keep My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 39:23-40:27

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses looked over all the work, and it was done in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. They did it in this way, and Moses blessed them.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “On the first day of the first month, the new moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put in it the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and lay out its offering, and bring in the lampstand and install its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark, and put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle of testimony. Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offerings before the door of the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put a cover over the tabernacle and consecrate everything pertaining to it. You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; and you shall consecrate it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.

“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of testimony and wash them with water. You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint and consecrate him that he may minister to Me as priest. You shall also bring his sons and put garments on them. You shall anoint them as you anointed their father, so they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.” Thus Moses did; according to all the Lord commanded him, so he did.

Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. So Moses set up the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Then he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the poles under the ark. He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses. He put the table in the tabernacle of testimony, on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, outside the veil of the tabernacle. He also set the bread of the offertory upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 40:21-32

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He also set the bread of the offertory upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord’s glory. But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. But if the cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Numbers 4:1-16

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “Take a sum total of the sons of Kohath from among the children of Levi, by their tribes and the houses of their families, from twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter liturgical service to do all the works in the tabernacle of testimony. These are the works, the most holy things, of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of testimony: When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall enter, and take down the overshadowing veil and cover the ark of the testimony with it. Then they shall put on it a blue leather covering; and on top of this they shall spread an entirely blue cloth, and then insert the carrying-poles. On the table of presentation they shall spread a cloth all of purple and put on it the dishes, the censers, the cups, and the bowls for pouring the drink-offerings; and the perpetual loaves shall be on it. They shall spread over it a scarlet cloth; and they shall cover it with a blue leather covering and then insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its funnels, and all its oil vessels with which they minister liturgically. Then they shall put it with all its vessels in a covering of blue leather, and put it on a carrying-pole. Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth; and they shall cover it with a covering of blue leather and then insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall take all the vessels for liturgical service with which they minister liturgically in the holy things, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with blue leather covering, and put them on carrying-poles. Also they shall put the covering on the altar and spread a cloth entirely of purple over it. They shall put on it all its vessels with which they minister liturgically there—the fire pans, the forks, the bowls, the cover, and all the vessels of the altar—and they shall spread on it a covering of blue leather and insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall spread on it a blue leather cover, and insert its carrying-poles. After this, they shall take a purple cloth to cover the laver and its base, and put them into a blue leather cover, and then put them on carrying-poles. Then after Aaron and his sons finish covering the holy things and all the holy vessels, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall enter to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of testimony the sons of Kohath are to carry: (the overseer is Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest) the oil for the light, the incense compound, the daily grain offering, the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle, and whatever is in it, in the holy place with all its works.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Numbers 4:17-33

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “Do not destroy the tribe of the Kohathite families from among the Levites; but do this in regard to them, so they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint each of them according to his transport duty. But they shall not go in unexpectedly to watch the holy things, lest they die.”

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take a census of the sons of Gershon, by their fathers’ houses according to their tribes. From twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall take a census of them, all who enter to minister liturgically, to do its works in the tabernacle of testimony. This is the liturgical service of the tribe of the Gershonites, in serving liturgically and in carrying: They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of testimony with its covering, the covering of blue leather over it, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of testimony, the curtains of the court, which are around the tabernacle of testimony, and all the abundance of liturgical vessels, with which they minister liturgically: so shall they do. Aaron and his sons shall assign all the liturgical service of the sons of the Gershonites, according to all their liturgical service and all the things to be carried by them. You shall assign them by name with all the matters to be carried by them. This is the liturgical service of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of testimony, and their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

“As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their tribes and their fathers’ houses. From twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the liturgical service to do the work of the tabernacle of testimony. These things to be carried by them are their duties relative to all their works in the tabernacle of testimony: the capitals of the tabernacle, and its bars, pillars, bases, and the screen. They shall also carry the bases, the pillars, and the screen of the door of the tabernacle, and the pillars around the court with their bases, and the pillars of the screen of the courtyard gate, and their bases, pegs, and cords, with all their vessels and liturgical things; and you shall assign them by name all the vessels they are responsible to carry. This is the liturgical service of the tribe of the sons of Merari, in all their works for the tabernacle of testimony, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 3:7-4:9

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.”

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight.’ ” So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, “Draw near in front of me in the Lord’s presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ then you will declare to your son, saying, ‘The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over’; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever.”

So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 2 Kingdoms 6:1-20 or 2 Samuel 6:1-20

From the second book of Kingdoms of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again David gathered all the young men of Israel, about seventy thousand. And David arose and went, he and all the people with him, even with the rulers of Judah, on an expedition to bring back from there the ark of God, on which they called upon the Name of the Lord of Hosts who dwells between the cherubim. So they set the ark of God on a new wagon and brought it from the house of Abinadab on the hill. And Uzzah and his brothers, the sons of Abinadab, drove the wagon with the ark, and his brothers went before the ark. Then David and all the sons of Israel with strength played music before the Lord on well-tuned instruments, with songs, harps, lyres, flutes, and with drums and cymbals.

And when they came to Nachon’s threshing-floor, Uzzah placed his hand on the ark of God to hold it steady when the oxen shook it out of its place. The Lord was angered against Uzzah, and there God struck him. And before God, he died there next to the ark of the Lord. And David became angry because the Lord inflicted a fatal wound against Uzzah, and he called that place Wound of Uzzah to this day. And on that day, fearing the Lord, David said, “In what possible way can the ark of the Lord come with me?” So David would not bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord to the City of David. Instead David directed it into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. For three months, the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. And the Lord blessed all the house of Obed-Edom and everything he had.

Now it was reported to King David, saying, “The Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all his possessions because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And there were with those bearing the ark of the Lord seven groups of singers, and a calf and a lamb for sacrifice. David played on well-tuned instruments before the Lord, and David put on a special garment. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

Now as the ark came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David dancing and playing instruments before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle David built for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole army of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and to the men and women, to everyone, a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a fried cake. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David. She blessed him and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, making himself a shameful exhibition before the eyes of his handmaidens as he uncovered himself, revealing himself as does a base dancer.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Chronicles 16:2-42 or 1 Chronicles 15:2-16:43

From the first book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then David said, “No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.” And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place which he prepared for it. Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites: of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred twenty of his brethren; of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred fifty of his brethren; of the sons of Gershom, Joel the chief, and one hundred thirty of his brethren; of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren; of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren; of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred twelve of his brethren.

And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, “You, the heads of the families of the Levites, sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, so you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I prepared for it. Because you were not prepared the first time, because we did not strive for judgment, God divided us within ourselves.” So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. As Moses had commanded, in accordance with the written word of the Lord, the sons of the Levites took the ark of God upon their shoulders with bearing-poles.

Then David said to the chief of the Levites, “Establish your brethren to be the singers with musical instruments—stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals—to sing invitingly in a voice of joyfulness unto His heaven.” So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers; the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze; Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth; Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith; Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the music because he was skillful; Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark; Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

With joy David and the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-Edom. And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, they offered seven bulls and seven rams. David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. Thus all of Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting and the sound of the horn, with trumpets and cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps. And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked out through a window and saw King David dancing and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

So they brought in the ark of God and set it in the midst of the tent David had pitched for it. They offered up whole burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. And David finished offering the whole burnt offerings and peace offerings, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord. And he divided one loaf of baked bread to every man and woman of Israel.

And he appointed Levites to minister before the presence of the ark of the Lord, to exclaim and give thanks and to praise the Lord God of Israel: Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom; Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests, continually before the ark of the covenant of God with trumpets.

Then David by the hand of Asaph and his brethren gave orders to praise the Lord:

Give praise to the Lord Himself! Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Sing songs to Him, sing praises to Him;

Tell of all His wondrous works which the Lord has done.

Praise His holy name;

The heart that seeks to do His pleasure shall rejoice.

Seek the Lord and be strong;

On account of all things, seek His face.

Remember His remarkable works which He has done,

His wonders and the judgments of His mouth,

O seed of Israel His servant,

You children of Jacob, His chosen ones.

He is the Lord our Lord;

His judgments are over all the earth.

Let us remember His covenant unto the ages,

The word He commands for a thousand generations—

The covenant He made with Abraham

And His oath to Isaac;

He confirmed it to Jacob for an ordinance,

To Israel for an eternal covenant,

Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan

As the allotment of your inheritance.”

When they were few in number,

When they were small in stature and dwelt as sojourners in it,

And when they went from nation to nation

And from one kingdom to another people,

He allowed no man to rule over them,

And He reproved kings for their sakes,

Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones,

And bring no harm to My prophets.”

Sing to the Lord, all the earth;

Proclaim His salvation from day to day.

For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the Gentiles are idols,

But our God made the heavens.

Glory and praise are before Him;

Strength and rejoicing are in His place.

Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

Give to the Lord glory and strength.

Give to the Lord the glory due His name;

Take gifts and offer them before His presence.

Oh, worship the Lord in His holy courts!

Let all the earth fear because of His presence;

Let the earth be set upright

And not be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

And let them say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”

Let the sea roar and all its fullness,

And the trees of the forest and all that is in them.

For the trees of the forest shall rejoice before the Lord,

For He is coming to judge the earth.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His mercy endures forever.

And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation;

And deliver us from the Gentiles

To praise Your holy name,

And boast in Your praises.”

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

From ages unto the ages.

All the people said, “Amen.” And they praised the Lord.

And they left Asaph and his brothers there, before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to minister continually from day to day according to the service of each day. And Obed-Edom and his brothers were sixty-eight; Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah were gatekeepers; Zadok the priest and the brethren of the priests stood before the tabernacle of the Lord in the high place in Gibeon, to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar of whole burnt offering every morning and evening; and to do according to all things written in the Law of the Lord that He commanded the sons of Israel by the hand of Moses the servant of God. And with him were Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest chosen out by name to give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy is forever; and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Chronicles 28:2-29:22

From the first book of Chronicle. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then King David rose to his feet and said, “Hear me, my brethren and my people. It was in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord and a footstool of our God. I made preparations to build it. But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.’ Yet the Lord God of Israel chose me from out of the entire house of my father to be king over Israel unto the age. And in Judah, he chose the royal palace; and of the house of Judah, he chose the house of my father; and of the sons of my father, He desired me to become king over all Israel. And of all my sons, for the Lord gave me many, He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

“And He said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts, for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. And if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, I will establish his kingdom forever, as it is this day.’ And now before the whole assembly of the Lord and in the hearing of our God, I charge you to keep and seek all the commandments of the Lord our God, that you may inherit the good land and leave this for your sons to inherit after you forever.

“And now, my son Solomon, know the God of your fathers, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing soul; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be strong and do it.”

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the temple, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner storehouses, and the house of the mercy seat; and the plans that he had in his mind concerning the courts of the house of the Lord, all the chambers round about the storehouses of the house of the Lord, and the storehouses for the dedicated things; also for the quarters for the daily priests and the Levites for all the work of the service of the house of the Lord; and for the storehouses for the serving articles used to worship in the house of the Lord. And the measure of their weight both in gold and in silver, he gave to him the weight of the lamps and of the lamp stands. He gave to him in like manner the weight for the tables of the showbread, for each table in gold and likewise in silver; also for the forks, the basins, the pitchers of gold, and the weight of the gold and the silver bowls for each weight; and the weight of the altar for burning incense made of refined gold he showed to him, and the plans for the chariot of the cherubim that spread out their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the Lord. All these things in writing from the hand of the Lord David gave to Solomon, so that he would succeed in understanding how to follow the plan.

And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it. Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord. And take notice of the division of the priests and Levites for all the daily service of the house of the Lord. With them shall be the men for every workmanship, every one of ready skill in every art. And at your command are the chief men and all the people.”

Furthermore, King David said to the entire assembly, “My one son Solomon, whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is a great work, for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God. According to all means possible I prepared gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx stones, costly and precious stones of various colors, and much marble for the house of my God. And because I took pleasure in the house of my God, I gave to the house of my God gold and silver over and above what I procured for myself; more than all I prepared for my house of my God, over and above all I prepared for my consecrated house. Three thousand talents of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver to be overlaid in these the walls of the sanctuary by the hands of craftsmen. And who this day zealously dedicates his hands for the Lord?”

Then the heads of the families, the princes of the sons of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, offered willingly. They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents of gold and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced as a result of their willingness, for they offered willingly to the Lord with their whole heart. King David rejoiced greatly.

With this, King David blessed the Lord before all the assembly, saying, “Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel, our Father, unto the ages of ages. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the might. You are master over all that is in heaven and on the earth. Every king and nation is thrown into confusion before You. From the first, You are the wealth and the glory who reigns over all, as the Lord and dominion of all. In Your hand is power and authority, and you are almighty with Your hand to increase and establish all things. And now, Lord, we give thanks to You, and we praise Your glorious name.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we are able to be zealous in offering to You? For all things are Yours, and of Your own we give to You. For we are strangers before You and sojourners, as were all our fathers. Our days upon the earth are as a shadow, and there are none that remain. O Lord our God, as for all this abundance which I have prepared that a house should be built to Your holy name, it is of Your hand and all is Yours. I know also, O Lord, that You search the heart and You love righteousness. As for me, in the sincerity of my heart I willingly offer all these things. And now I see Your people who brought themselves here joyfully to offer willingly to You. O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep under guard these things in the thoughts of the heart of Your people forever, and lead their heart toward You. And give my son Solomon a fitting heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your ordinances and bring to an end the final preparation of Your house.”

Then David said to all the congregation, “Now bless the Lord your God.” And everyone in the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down before the Lord and the king.

The next day after the first day, David sacrificed and offered up whole burnt offerings to the Lord—even a thousand calves, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs—along with their drink offerings, and an abundance of sacrifices for all Israel. So they ate and drank before the Lord with great gladness on that day. And they made Solomon the son of David king a second time and anointed him king before the Lord, and Zadok to the priesthood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 2 Chronicles 3:1-6:11

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign. This is the foundation Solomon laid for building the house of God. It was sixty cubits long (according to the former measure) and twenty cubits wide. The vestibule in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and one hundred twenty cubits high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. He paneled the larger room with cypress and overlaid it with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chain work on it. He decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim. He also overlaid the house—the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors—with gold and carved cherubim on the walls. And he made the most holy place. Its length corresponded to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and it was twenty cubits wide. He overlaid it as far as the cherubim with six hundred talents of fine gold. The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. He overlaid the upper room with gold.

In the most holy place he made two wooden cherubim and overlaid them with gold. The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length. One wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub; one wing of the other cherub was five cubits as well, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub. The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet and faced inward. He made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it.

In front of the house he made two pillars thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each was five cubits. He made wreaths of chain work, as in the inner sanctuary, and put them on top of the pillars. And he made one hundred pomegranates and put them on the wreaths of chain work. Then he set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand and the other on the left. He called the one on the right hand Upholding, and he called the one on the left Strength.

He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high. And he made the sea of cast bronze, ten cubits in diameter. It was completely round. It was five cubits high and thirty cubits around. Under it were the likenesses of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the sea. The oxen were cast in two rows when it was cast. It stood on twelve oxen. Three looked toward the north, three looked toward the west, three looked toward the south, and three looked toward the east. The sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward. It was a handbreadth thick and its brim was like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths. And he finished it.

He also made ten basins, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash what they offered for the burnt offering. The sea, however, was for the priests to wash in. He made ten gold lampstands according to their design and set them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. And he made one hundred golden bowls.

He made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the door panels with bronze. He set the sea on the right side toward the east. Then Huram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls for the altar and all its utensils. So Huram finished the work he was to do for King Solomon for the house of God, the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the two pillars, the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; four hundred pomegranates for the two networks—two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals on the pillars. He made carts and put basins on the carts, and one sea with twelve oxen under it, and tripods and buckets and basins and forks and all the other utensils. Huram his master craftsman made them of pure bronze for King Solomon for the house of the Lord. The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of Jordan between Succoth and Zeredah. And Solomon had all these articles made in such great quantity that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God, the golden altar and the tables for the showbread, the lamp stands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary, with the tongs and the lamps and the cups and the censers of pure gold. The door of the sanctuary, the inner door to the most holy place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple were gold.

So all the work that Solomon did for the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in everything his father David had dedicated, the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the families of the sons of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast in the seventh month. All the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites carried it. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel assembled with him in fear before the ark, sacrificing more sheep and oxen than could be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. And the poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses put there at Horeb when the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel when they came out of Egypt.

And when the priests came from the holy place (for all the priests who were present were sanctified before being separated into divisions), and the Levites and the singers of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, and with them were one hundred twenty priests sounding with trumpets; and the trumpeters and singers were as one voice in sounding the trumpet and singing and in praising and thanking the Lord. And when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, they praised the Lord, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His mercy endures forever.”

The house was filled with a cloud of the Lord’s glory, 14so the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Then Solomon said:

“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

But I built a house to your name, a house holy to You,

And prepared for You a place to dwell forever.”

Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. And he said, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, ‘Since the day I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel; yet I chose Jerusalem so that My name may be there, and I chose David to be over My people Israel.’

“Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord God of Israel; but the Lord said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well by having it in your heart, but you shall not build the house, for your son who will come from your body, he shall build the house for My name.’ So the Lord fulfilled the word He spoke, and I took my father David’s place and sat on the throne of Israel as the Lord said, and I built the house for the name of the Lord God of Israel. And there I put the ark containing the covenant which the Lord made with Israel.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kingdoms 8:20-60 or Kings 8:22-61

From the third book of Kingdoms. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said, “O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, who keep Your covenant and Your mercy with Your servant who walks before You with all his heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as today. Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your people guard and keep their ways to walk before Me, as you walked before Me.’ So now, O Lord God of Israel, let the word be confirmed You spoke to Your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell with men on earth? If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place day and night. You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.

“When anyone sins against his neighbor, or if he takes up an oath that he should swear, and comes and redeems himself before Your altar in this temple, You will hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your people Israel; condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving to him according to his righteousness.

“When Your people Israel are defeated before their enemies because they sinned against You, and when they turn back to You, and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this house, then You will hear in heaven and be propitious to the sins of Your people Israel; and You will bring them back to the land You gave their fathers.

“When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sins, whenever they humble themselves—You will hear from heaven, and be propitious to the sins of Your servant and Your people Israel; that You may teach them the good way in which to walk, and send rain on the land You gave Your people as an inheritance.

“When there is famine in the land; when there is death; when there is burning, locusts, or blight; when their enemy besieges them in one of their cities; whatever plague or affliction there is; whatever prayer and supplication shall be offered by any man, as each one might know the plague of his heart, and will spread out his hands toward this house—You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place, and be propitious and act; and You will give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know; for You alone know the hearts of all the children of men. So they will fear You all the days they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

“Even the foreigner who is not of Your people, when he comes and prays in this temple, You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You. This so all people will know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel. They will know Your name is called upon in this house I built.

“When Your people go out to battle against their enemies wherever You send them, and when they pray in the name of the Lord toward the city You chose, and the temple I built for Your name—then You will hear their prayer and supplication in heaven. You will make a righteous judgment for them. When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy; and they are taken captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; yet when they turn their hearts in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong,’ and they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land You gave to their fathers, the city You chose, and the temple I built for Your name—then You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place; and You will be propitious in their unrighteousness in which they sinned against You, and in all their transgressions by which they broke faith with You; and You will grant them compassion before those who took them captive, and they will have compassion on them; for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of the land of Egypt, out of the midst of the iron furnace.

“Let Your eyes and Your ears be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to hear them about everything, whenever they call to You. For You, O Lord and Master, separated them from all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You said by Your servant Moses when You brought our fathers out of Egypt.”

Then Solomon said concerning the house he had finished building:

“The Lord made known the sun in heaven;

He spoke to those dwelling in darkness,

‘Build My house, a house of splendor for yourself,

To dwell in newness.’ ”

Behold, is this not written in the book of the ode?

When Solomon finished praying all his prayer and supplication to the Lord, he rose up from before the altar of the Lord, after kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel with a loud voice and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who gave rest to His people Israel, just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good words He spoke through His servant Moses.

“May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep all His commandments and His statutes that He commanded our fathers. May these words with which I have made supplication before the Lord stand near the Lord our God day and night, to maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel as each day may require; that all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God, and there is no other. Let your heart therefore be perfect to the Lord our God, that you walk piously in His statutes, and keep His commandments, as today.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kingdoms 8:53-60

From the third book of Kingdoms. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

When Solomon finished praying all his prayer and supplication to the Lord, he rose up from before the altar of the Lord, after kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel with a loud voice and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who gave rest to His people Israel, just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good words He spoke through His servant Moses.

“May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep all His commandments and His statutes that He commanded our fathers. May these words with which I have made supplication before the Lord stand near the Lord our God day and night, to maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel as each day may require; that all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God, and there is no other. Let your heart therefore be perfect to the Lord our God, that you walk piously in His statutes, and keep His commandments, as today.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 2 Chronicles 7:1-6

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord at that time because the glory of the Lord had filled the house. When all the sons of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the house, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying:

“For He is good,

For His mercy endures forever.”

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord. Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand calves and one hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. And the priests stood at their posts along with the Levites and their instruments for the music of the Lord, which King David had made to praise the Lord, saying, “For His mercy endures forever,” with the hymns of David. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 2 Chronicles 7:7-18

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Solomon consecrated the middle of the court of the house of the Lord. He offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar Solomon made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat. At that time Solomon kept the feast for seven days, and all Israel kept it with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt. And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar for seven days. On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, he sent the people away to their habitations, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the Lord had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

So Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king’s house, and Solomon successfully accomplished everything that came into his heart to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will be merciful to their sins and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears will hear the prayer of this place; for now I have chosen and sanctified this house, so that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there all the day. If you shall walk before Me as your father David and do everything I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My judgments; then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘A man ruling in Israel shall not be removed from you.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 59:20-60:22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who delivers shall come for Zion’s sake, and He shall turn back ungodliness from Jacob. “This shall be My covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit who is upon you, and My words I caused to be in your mouth shall not fail from the mouth of your seed; for the Lord has spoken it, from now and forever.

“Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course and turn to you. Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense and proclaim the good news of the Lord’s salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these who fly like clouds and like doves with young? The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord’s name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. Foreigners shall build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you, therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you and the God of Israel who delivers you. Instead of bronze, I will bring you gold, and instead of iron, I will bring you silver, and instead of wood, I will bring you bronze, and instead of stones, iron. I will establish your rulers in peace and your bishops in righteousness. Unrighteousness shall no longer be heard in your land, neither destruction nor distress within your boundaries, but your walls shall be called Salvation, and your gates Sculptured Work. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor shall the rising of the moon shine on you at night, but the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and God, your glory. For your sun shall no longer set, nor shall your moon be eclipsed, for the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be fulfilled. Also your people shall all be righteous, and they shall inherit the land forever, guarding what they planted, the works of their hands, for glory. The few in number shall become thousands, and the lesser shall become a great nation. I the Lord will gather them together at the appointed time.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 1:3-27

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon me.

I looked, and behold, a sweeping wind came from the north, and a great cloud was in it, with a surrounding brightness and fire flashing forth from it. In its midst was something like the appearance of amber in the middle of the fire, and a brightness in it. In the midst, there was as it were the likeness of four living creatures. This was their appearance, and the likeness of a man upon them. Each had four faces, and each had four wings. Their legs were straight, and their feet were winged. There were sparks like gleaming brass, and their wings were light. The hand of a man was underneath their wings on their four sides. The faces of those four did not turn as they proceeded, and they went with each face opposite the other. This was the likeness of their faces: the face of a man, the face of a lion on the right side of the foursome, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle. Their wings were spread out above them. Each had two wings joined together, and two wings covered up their bodies. Each went straight forward wherever the spirit was going, and did not turn back. In the midst of the living creatures there was an appearance as of burning coals of fire, as an appearance of lamps turning among the living creatures. There was the brightness of fire, and out of the fire lightning came forth.

I looked and behold, there was one wheel on the earth next to each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels was like the appearance of beryl, and each of the four had one likeness; and their work was as it were a wheel within a wheel. They went on their four sides, and did not turn when they went. Neither did their backs turn, and they were high. I saw them, and the backs of all four were full of eyes all around. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the cloud happened to be, there was the spirit ready to go. The living creatures went, and the wheels went with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels.0When the living creatures went, the wheels went; when the living creatures came to a stop, the wheels stopped; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels.

The likeness above the heads of the living creatures was like a firmament, like the appearance of crystal, spread out over their wings above. Their wings were outspread underneath the firmament, clapping their wings one to the other, two wings joined to each, and two wings covering up their bodies. I heard the sound of their wings when they went, like the sound of much water; and when they stood still, their wings rested.

Then behold, a voice came from above the firmament, above their head. There was as it were the appearance of a sapphire stone, and the likeness of a throne upon it. Upon the likeness of the throne there was as it were the appearance of a man above. Then I saw as it were the outward appearance of amber from the appearance of the waist and upward. From the appearance of the waist and downward I saw as it were the appearance of fire with brightness round about. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the condition of the surrounding brightness.

This was the vision of the likeness of the Lord’s glory. I saw it, and I fell down on my face, and heard the voice of One speaking.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 40:1-19

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again in the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, in the first month, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was captured, on the very same day, the hand of the Lord was upon me. He took me in a vision of God into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain. On it, but opposite from me, was something like the structure of a city. He took me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of gleaming bronze. He had a builder’s cord and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood at the gate. Then the man said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this? Look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your heart on everything I show you; for you were brought here that I might show them to you. For you shall reveal to the house of Israel everything you see.”

Now there was a wall around the entire outside of the house. In the man’s hand was a measuring stick, six cubits long, each consisting of a cubit and a handbreadth, and he measured the width of the wall structure, one measuring stick, and the height, one measuring stick. Then he went to the gate which faced east, up seven stairs, and measured across the entrance of the gate, one measuring stick wide. Each gate chamber was one measuring stick long and one measuring stick wide. Between the gate chambers was a space of six cubits, and the second gate chamber was one measuring stick wide, one measuring stick long; and the entrance was five cubits. The third gate chamber was one measuring stick wide and one measuring stick long. The neighboring entrance was eight cubits, and the gatepost was two cubits, also the outer entrance of the gate.

The gate chambers were three on one side and three on the other. There was one measurement to all three and one measurement to the entrances on this side and the other. He measured the width of the entrance to the gate, ten cubits, and the length of the gate, thirteen cubits. The dimensions of the front of the gate chambers were equal, and the gate chambers were six cubits on this side and six cubits on that side. Then he measured the gate from the roof of one gate chamber to the roof of the other, and the width was twenty-five cubits, from one gate to the other. He measured the open inner court of the gate chamber, sixty cubits high, and there were twenty gate chambers all around. From the open court of the gate outside into the open inner court of the gate chamber within was fifty cubits. There were hidden windows in the gate chambers and in their entrances on the inside of the gate all around, and likewise the entrances had hidden windows all around. There were windows all around on the inside, and on each entrance chamber were ornamental palm trees, equally displayed on one side and the other.

Then he brought me into the inner court; and behold, there were temple chambers and pillars all around the court; thirty chambers among the pillars. The porches were behind the gates; corresponding to the same length of the gates was the underlying pillar. Then he measured the width of the court, from the open air court of the gate which was to the outside to the open air court of the gate which faces out, a hundred cubits to the court which faces east. Then he led me to the north side.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 42:15-20

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the measurement of the whole house was completed within. Then he led me along the way of the gate which faces east, and measured the whole pattern of the house all around in its plan. He stood behind the gate which faces east and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned to the north side and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned toward the west and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned toward the south and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. The four directions were the same measurement, and he planned it out, and the enclosing wall all around was five hundred units to the east and five hundred units in width for setting out the boundary wall between the holy precinct and the remaining layout of the house.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 43:1-7

Again from the book of Ezekeil the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east, and led me out. Behold, the glory of the God of Israel was approaching from the way of the gate which faces east. The sound of His camp was like the sound of many voices redoubled upon each other, and the earth shone forth His glory with a brightness all around. The vision I saw was like the vision I saw when I entered to anoint the city, and the vision of the chariot I saw was like the vision I saw by the River Chebar; so I fell on my face. Then the glory of the Lord entered into the house by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the house was full of the Lord’s glory.

Then I stood, and behold, there was a voice from the house, and a Man was standing with me. He said to me, “Son of man, you have seen the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the house of Israel forever. No more will the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their leaders, by their fornication or murders of the leaders in their midst.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Ezekiel 44:1-5

And again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary that faces toward the east, but it was shut. So the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. As for the prince, he will sit in it to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber and go out the same way.”

Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory; and I fell on my face. The Lord said to me, “Son of man, note well with your heart, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all I say to you concerning all the ordinances of the Lord’s house and all its laws. Mark well with your heart the entering of the house according to all its exits in all its holy places.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### Revelation 21:1-27

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with people! He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes! Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, crying, or pain any more. The first things have passed away.”

The one who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new!” He said, “Write, for these words of God are faithful and true!” He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To whoever is thirsty, I will freely give from the spring of the water of life. To the one who overcomes, I will give these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls loaded with the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!” In the Spirit, he carried me away to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. She had the glory of God; her radiance was like a most precious stone, as if it was a jasper stone, clear as crystal. She had a great and high wall with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve angels and names were written on the gates: the names of the Twelve tribes of the children of Israel. On the east were three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who spoke with me held a golden reed as a measuring unit to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. The city was laid our as a square: its length is as great as its breadth. He measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand twelve stadia. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then the angel measured its wall: one hundred forty-four cubits, by the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. Its wall are built with jasper and the city was pure gold, like pure glass. The foundations of the city’s wall were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was **jasper**; the second, **sapphire**; the third, **chalcedony**; the fourth, **emerald**; the fifth, **sardonyx**; the sixth, **sardius**; the seventh, **chrysolite**; the eighth, **beryl**; the ninth, **topaz**; the tenth, **chrysoprasus**; the eleventh, **jacinth**; and the twelfth, **amethyst**. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each one of the gates was made of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its sanctuary. The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light; the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates will not be shut by day (for there will be no night there), and the nations will come, bringing their splendor and tribute. Nothing profane will enter into the city, or anyone who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 7:26-8:13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, “Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. 8But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,*

*and with the house of Judah;*

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,*

*in the day when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of the land of Egypt;*

*for they did not continue in my covenant,*

*and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

*After those days, says the Lord;*

*I will put my laws into their mind,*

*I will also write them on their heart.*

*I will be their God,*

*and they will be my people.*

*They will not teach every man his neighbor,*

*and every man his brother, saying: ‘Know the Lord,’*

*for all will know me,*

*from their least to their greatest.*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness;*

*I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.*

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:14-26

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:44-56

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of

Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is a footstool for my feet. What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord; ‘or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Altar

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:10-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Baptistry

#### The Prophecies

##### Exodus 15:22-16:1

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. Then the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you.”

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 30:17-30

Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of testimony and the altar. You shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet with water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of testimony, they shall wash with water, lest they die, or when they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord. So they shall wash their hands and feet with water when they go into the tabernacle of testimony, lest they die. It shall be an ordinance forever to them—for him and his genealogy after him.”

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels’ worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:16-26

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 35:1-10

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. Be comforted, you fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:16-44:6

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zechariah 8:7-19

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.’

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men’s wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.’

“For thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘As I purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked Me to anger,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and I did not relent, so now in these days I have prepared and purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; be of good courage. These are the things you shall do: speak the truth, each man to his neighbor, and judge with peaceful judgment in your gates, and let none of you plan evil in his heart against his neighbor, and do not love a false oath, for all these things I hate,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zechariah 14:8-11

Again from the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king’s winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Oil of Gladness

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:11-10:24

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (sprinkling those who have been defiled) could sanctify to restore the purity of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to offer divine service to the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the sins that were under the first covenant, so that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where there is a last will and testament, there must also be the death of the one who made it. A will comes into effect after death; it is never in force while the one who made it is still alive. That is why even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”

Moreover, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way, with the blood. According to the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and there is no remission [of sins] if there is no shedding of blood. Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things should be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves [had to be purified] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true [holy places], but into heaven itself in order to appear in the presence of God for us. Yet, this did not take place so that he would offer himself often, as the [Levitical] high priest does when he enters into the holy place year by year, not with their own blood. Otherwise, he would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But now, at the end of the ages, he has been revealed once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed for humans to die once, and after this come the judgment. It is the same with Christ: having been offered once to bear the sins of many, he will appear a second time, apart from sin-offering, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,*

*but you prepared a body for me;*

*You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come*

*(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)*

*to do your will, O God.’*

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them” (those which are offered according to the law), and then he said, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He takes away the first so that he may establish the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet. By one offering, he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying:

*This is the covenant that I will make with them:*

*‘After those days,’ says the Lord,*

*‘I will put my laws on their heart,*

*I will also write them on their mind;’*

then he says,

*I will remember their sins and iniquities no more.*

Now, where there is remission of these sins, there is no more offering for sin.

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-5:21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not 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 13:13-49

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, Paul and his company set sail from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Continuing from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia. There, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down [to listen]. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent them a message, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak!”

So Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you [Gentiles] who fear God, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper when they stayed as aliens in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. For a period of about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, God gave them their land as an inheritance, and this took about four hundred fifty years. After this, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin [who ruled] for forty years. After removing him, he raised up David to be their king, even bearing witness to him, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ From this man’s seed, God has brought salvation to Israel, according to his promise. This was before the coming of Jesus, when John first preached the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’ Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm:

*‘You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.’*

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ Therefore, he also says in another psalm, ‘You will not allow your holy one to see decay.’ Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*‘Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.’*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God. The next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that God’s word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*‘I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord’s word was spread throughout the entire region.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The First Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 7:26-9:10

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something tooffer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, “Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,*

*and with the house of Judah;*

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,*

*in the day when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of the land of Egypt;*

*for they did not continue in my covenant,*

*and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

After those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, I will also write them on their heart. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying: ‘Know the Lord,’ for all will know me, from their least to their greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness; I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:8-4:11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. 3For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:24-19:20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!” Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, “We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Second Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:1-2:4

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf*

*and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*“Let all the angels of God worshipi him.”*

*Of the angels, Godk says:*

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.a*

*But of the Son he says:*

*Your throne, O Godb, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your*

*companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we weretaught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:10-2:10

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

Having purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart, fervently! You have been born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, through the word ofGod 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 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, 2as 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 2:22-3:10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*‘I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’*

Brethren, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us even to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that from the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, [declaring] that his soul would not be left in hades and that his flesh would not see decay. God has raised this Jesus [back to life], and we are all witnesses of this fact. Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but as he himself declared:

*‘The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’*

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with assurance that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now, when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### The Third Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 2:11-3:7

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence. (Indeed, if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how can he take care of the Church of God?) He should not be a new convert, for fear that being puffed up with pride he may fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have good testimony from those who are outside in order to avoid falling into [public] blame and the snare of the devil.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:5-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal lifec and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:26-39

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.”

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.”

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, “Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?”

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a placed with] some water, and the eunuch said, “Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?”

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

### Myron

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 61:1-7

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 30:22-33

From the book of Exhodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels’ worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests. You shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil throughout your generations. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any like it according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Exodus 39:23-40:32

Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses looked over all the work, and it was done in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. They did it in this way, and Moses blessed them.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “On the first day of the first month, the new moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put in it the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and lay out its offering, and bring in the lampstand and install its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark, and put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle of testimony. Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offerings before the door of the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put a cover over the tabernacle and consecrate everything pertaining to it. You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; and you shall consecrate it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.

“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of testimony and wash them with water. You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint and consecrate him that he may minister to Me as priest. You shall also bring his sons and put garments on them. You shall anoint them as you anointed their father, so they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.” Thus Moses did; according to all the Lord commanded him, so he did.

Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. So Moses set up the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Then he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the poles under the ark. He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses. He put the table in the tabernacle of testimony, on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, outside the veil of the tabernacle. He also set the bread of the offertory upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord’s glory. But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. But if the cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 1:5-2:4

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten you*

and again:

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son?*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*“Let all the angels of God worship him.”*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

The Son as eternal creator

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,*

*and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we were taught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:20-28

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:34-46a

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. The believers who had come with Peter and who were of the circumcision were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. Indeed, they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

## The Anointing of the Sick

### The First Prayer

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:10-20

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

### The Second Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 15:1-7

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, “The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Third Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:28-13:8

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Fourth Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:14-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Fifth Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 2:16-20

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Yet knowing that no one is justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, even though we desired to be justified in Christ, we were found to be sinners, does that mean that Christ is a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I build up again those things which I [once] destroyed, I show that I am breaking the law. For I, through the law, died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. I now live this life in the flesh, but I live [it] by faith in the Son of God who loved me and who gave himself up for me.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Sixth Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:12-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful!Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Seventh Prayer

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:10-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

## Burial

### Men

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:1-23

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are no raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive. But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ’s, at his coming.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Women

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:39-50

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Women During Childbrith

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 26:9-20

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. The ungodly man ceases; he will not learn righteousness on the earth; he will not do the truth; let the ungodly man be taken away, that he may not see the glory of the Lord. O Lord, Your arm is exalted, but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed, for jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries. O Lord our God, grant us peace, for You render everything to us. O Lord our God, possess us; O Lord, we know no other besides You; we name Your name. The dead will not see life; neither will physicians raise them. Therefore You brought evils upon them and destroyed them, and took away every male of theirs. Bring more evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth. O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction. As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved because of Your fear, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain, and we have given birth. We brought forth the spirit of Your salvation on the earth. But the inhabitants of the world shall fall. The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad, for your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end.” Come, my people, enter your closets and shut your door; hide yourself for a very short while, until the anger of the Lord is past.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:1-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam’s disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Boys

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Girls

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal immortality, then what is written will come true, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

*Death, where is your sting?*

*Hades, where is your victory?*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Deacons

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:23-38

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ’s, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, “He put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when he says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived! “Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised?” and, “With what kind of body do they return?” You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Presbyters

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:10-5:1

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Bishops

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:7-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Monks and Heiromonks

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:2-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh; so that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit. The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. This is because the mind ofthe flesh is hostile towards God; certainly, it is not subject to God’s law, and indeed it cannot be. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

##### 2 Corinthians 4:10-5:1

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### Virgins

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 5:11-17

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have something to answer to those who boast in appearances - not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### The Lifting of the Mat on the Third Day in the Home of the Deceased, Also the Fortieth Day

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:6-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam’s disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

### One Month, Six Months, and One Year

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:12-22

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

# Each Day

### After Supper: Retiring

#### The Prophecies

##### Isaias 8:8-9:6 (From the Coptic)

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God is with us. Know, all nations, that God is with us. Know to the end of the earth that God is with us. All your counsels will be brought to nought, and you should strengthen your hands again, you will become feeble, for God is with us. And all counsels which you shall counsel will not be able to stand, for God is with us; all your words will be brought to nought at once, for God is with us. And the fear of you we will not fear, neither will we be grieved at heart, for God is with us. And the Lord, you will bless Him, for He is our God: He it is Who gives strength to us, for God is with us. For we have trusted in Him, and on account of Him we will be saved, for God is with us. Behold, I and the children whom God hath given to me. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; and on them who sit in the land and the shadow of death a light hath shone, for God is with us, Whose government shall be upon His shoulders, Wonderful Counsellor, for God is with us. God Who is strong, Who is of authority, Prince of Peace and Father of the future ages, for God is with us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Early Morning: The First Hour

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-5

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.