The Apostle Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Great and Holy Week

## Lazarus Saturday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 2:1-8

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:6

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

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

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:38-28:10

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

When they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea. When day came, they did not recognize the land but noticed a cove with a beach, and they decided to try to drive the ship onto it. Casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time untying the rudder ropes. Hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But coming to a place with cross-currents, they beached the vessel. The front of the ship struck and remained immovable while the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves.

The soldiers’ advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live.” However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

Now, in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leader of the island, [a man] named Publius who welcomed us and courteously entertained us for three days. It also happened that Publius’ father was bedridden, sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the people who had diseases in the island also came, and they were cured. They honored us in many ways, and when we sailed off, put on board the things that we needed.

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

## Palm Sunday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 9:11-28

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

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (sprinkling those who have been defiled) could sanctify to restore the purity of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to offer divine service to the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the sins that were under the first covenant, so that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where there is a last will and testament, there must also be the death of the one who made it. A will comes into effect after death; it is never in force while the one who made it is still alive. That is why even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”

Moreover, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way, with the blood. According to the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and there is no remission [of sins] if there is no shedding of blood. Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things should be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves [had to be purified] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true [holy places], but into heaven itself in order to appear in the presence of God for us. Yet, this did not take place so that he would offer himself often, as the [Levitical] high priest does when he enters into the holy place year by year, not with their own blood. Otherwise, he would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But now, at the end of the ages, he has been revealed once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed for humans to die once, and after this come the judgment. It is the same with Christ: having been offered once to bear the sins of many, he will appear a second time, apart from sin-offering, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:11-31

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

Three months later, we set sail in a ship from Alexandria which had wintered in the island, whose 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 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.

## Monday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

Brethren, if we wish to escape from the retribution of God, and find mercy before Him, let us sit at the end of every day alone, by ourselves, after dinner. Let us then search ourselves concerning what we have offered to the angel who is accompanying us to serve us, that he may bring up to the Lord.

Again, when the night is over and the morning has broken, let us search ourselves alone, to find out what we have offered to the angel to whom we were entrusted, that he may offer up to the Lord. We should have no doubt that every one, whether he be male or female, young or old, who has been baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, has been assigned an angel from God, that accompanies him until the day of his departure.

This angel ascends unto God every day that he may bring up to God the deeds, done in the day or through the night, by the person entrusted to him. Not that God is ignorant of our deeds— God forbid! For He is all-knowing, as it is also written, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”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 Eleventh Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

There are deeds that seem to us good, but they are evil before God: As when we see someone who sins in the holy places and we, by being patient with him, make him continue in his evil. For God did not plant in Paradise good and bad trees, but rather planted good and fruitful trees only. Not only that, but the man Whom He put in Paradise, when he disobeyed, He did not ignore what he did, but drove him out of it.

From this, we know, my beloved brethren, that the holy houses of God should not be filled with both good and evil people, even as the world which is filled with sinners and saints. Rather, admonish every one that behaves unseemly in the house of God. I know that the whole earth is the Lord’s, but if we treat His house as the rest of the earth, what then distinguishes it from every place else? And if I, as a priest do the same evil that the wicked of the world do, then I have no right to be called a priest.

Many times we sin and yet do not know how to condemn ourselves. No one will dare to fill your house with dirt except he perceives that you are complacent. And the door keepers of the king will not dare to bring into his house everyone whether he be a keeper of his commandments or a breaker of them, except with his orders. And those who act otherwise shall be punished.

Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.

## Tuesday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

I shall tell you two things. All those for whom there was joy in heaven, on account of their repentance, shall see neither sorrow nor pain in the place they are about to inherit. But those for whom there was no joy in heaven, because they did not turn from their sins, neither repented from their iniquities, shall see neither joy nor repose in that place. For those who live in luxury and enjoyment on earth shall see neither joy nor repose in heaven.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 Eleventh Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

I would like to remind you, brethren, of what I told you several times, whenever we partook of the holy Mysteries of Christ. When I see your recklessness and lack of awe, that calls for weeping, I weep by myself, saying in my mind, “Do they realize before Whom they are standing? And do they know the power of this 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 Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

I shall say these words, and not leave them behind: Do not think that after the chaff is separated from the wheat,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 Eleventh Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### 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 Maundy Thursday

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:15-20

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

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: “Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called ‘Akeldama,’ that is, ‘The field of blood.’)

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*‘Let his habitation be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it;’*

and,

*‘Let another take his office of overseer.’*

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

### The Prayer Over the Baisen (Lakane)

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, let us now be remorseful before Him, Who suffered for us, and be fearful of Him, Who girded Himself with a towel, poured water in a basin and washed the feet of His Disciples with His pure hands. Let us bring forth fruits that are worthy of this great humility, which He mani-fested for our sake. Let us repent speedily from our sins, which we have committed. For, if we do not repent, then we will be spoken of in heaven as lovers of sin. What hope have we then, if we are driven out of heaven, if we are cast into 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.

## Great and Holy Friday

### The First Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

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 Eleventh Hour of Great and Holy Friday

#### The Homily

A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.

It is written in the books, that if our souls are bound by the Law of God, then the powers of darkness cannot prevail over us. But, if we depart away from God, they will overpower us.

Therefore, if you wish to be saved, meditate on God's rich love and wisdom. Stretch your hands in the likeness of the Cross to cross over that great sea which is this world, and thus reach God. Stay away from those things that hinder you from crossing over, such things as belong to those who are outside the catholic Church. I mean, disbelief, fornication, gossip, and love of mon-ey, which is the root of all evil.

Behold, the sign of the Cross is spread over all the creation! For, if the sun stretches not its rays, it 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

## Bright Saturday

### Morning or Prime

#### 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 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 Liturgy of Bright Saturday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:1-22

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

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:12-21

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

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

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

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

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