The Readings for Great Lent

of the

Coptic Rite

The Readings for Great Lent of the Coptic Rite

No ISBN for this edition.

© Laurent Cleenewerck, Editor, 2017—All rights reserved.

Only the copyright hodler may produce and sell printed versions of this work.

New Testament Scripture taken from The Eastern / Greek Orthodox Bible or The Holy Bible of the Eastern / Greek Orthodox Churches, based on the Septuagint and Patriarchal Text. Copyright © 2007, 2008 Laurent Cleenewerck, Editor. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

NOTE: PERMISSION HAS NOT AT THIS TIME BEEN OBTAINED FOR SAAS, THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED, IT IS ONLY TO BE USED FOR PROOFING AND SEEKING PERMISSION FOR SAAS.

Old Testament (excluding Psalms) Scripture taken from the St. Athanasius Academy Septuagint™. Copyright © 2008 by St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Psalms taken from The Great Horologion According to the Rites of the Oriental Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria. Copyright © 2017 by St. Cyril’s Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Great Lent 4

The Fast and Feast of Nineveh 5

The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking 31

The First Sunday of Great Lent 73

The Second Sunday of Great Lent 125

The Third Sunday of Great Lent 178

The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent 235

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent 294

The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent 365

# Great Lent

## The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

### Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 94:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Come let us rejoice in the Lord; let us shout with joy unto God our Savior; let us come before His countenance with confession and with psalms let us shout with joy unto Him. Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Jonas 1:1-2:1

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

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonas the son of Amathi, saying, Rise, and go to Nineve, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of its wickedness is come up to me. But Jonas rose up to flee to Tharsis from the presence of the Lord. And he went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tharsis: and he paid his fare, and went up into it, to sail with them to Tharsis from the presence of the Lord.

And the Lord raised up a wind on the sea; and there was a great storm on the sea, and the ship was in danger of being broken. And the sailors were alarmed, and cried every one to his god, and cast out the wares that were in the ship into the sea, that it might be lightened of them. But Jonas was gone down into the hold of the ship, and was asleep, and snored. And the shipmaster came to him, and said to him, Why snorest thou? arise, and call upon thy God, that God may save us, and we perish not. And each man said to his neighbour, Come, let us cast lots, and find out for whose sake this mischief is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonas. And they said to him, Tell us what is thine occupation, and whence comest thou, and of what country and what people art thou? And he said to them, I am a servant of the Lord; and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea, and the dry *land*. Then the men feared exceedingly, and said to him, What is this *that* thou hast done? for the men knew that he was fleeing from the face of the Lord, because he had told them.

And they said to him, What shall we do to thee, that the sea may be calm to us? for the sea rose, and lifted its wave exceedingly. And Jonas said to them, Take me up, and cast me into the sea, and the sea shall be calm to you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. And the men tried hard to return to the land, and were not able: for the sea rose and grew more and more tempestuous against them. And they cried to the Lord, and said, Forbid it, Lord: let us not perish for the sake of this man’s life, and bring not righteous blood upon us: for thou, Lord, hast done as thou wouldest. So they took Jonas, and cast him out into the sea: and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord very greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and vowed vows. Now the Lord had commanded a great whale to swallow up Jonas: and Jonas was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 102:1, 8

A Psalm of David.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy Name. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord; long-suffering and plenteous in mercy. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:6-12

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

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:17-23

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

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:1-13

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

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:38-47

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

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 129:3, 4, 6a

A Psalm of David.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord; O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiviness. My soul hath hoped in the Lord. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:35-45

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

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation. Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Jonas 2:2-11

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

And Jonas prayed to the Lord his God out of the belly of the whale, and said, I cried in my affliction to the Lord my God, and he hearkened to me, *even* to my cry out of the belly of hell: thou heardest my voice. Thou didst cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and the floods compassed me: all thy billows and thy waves have passed upon me. And I said, I am cast out of thy presence: shall I indeed look again toward thy holy temple? Water was poured around me to the soul: the lowest deep compassed me, my head went down to the clefts of the mountains; I went down into the earth, whose bars are the everlasting barriers: yet, O Lord my God, let my ruined life be restored. When my soul was failing me, I remembered the Lord; and may my prayer come to thee into thy holy temple. They that observe vanities and lies have forsaken their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to thee with the voice of praise and thanksgiving: all that I have vowed I will pay to thee, the Lord of *my* salvation.

And the whale was commanded by the Lord, and it cast up Jonas on the dry *land*. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Remember, O Lord that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass. Not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our sins has He dealt with us, nor according to our iniquities has He rewarded us. Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:6-9

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

He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:21-29

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

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:30-34

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

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which *was* Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 84:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

Thou hast forgiven the iniquities of Thy people; Thou hast covered all their sins. Thou hast taken away all Thine anger: Thou hast turned away from the anger of Thy wrath. Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:29-36

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

And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth *it* in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when *thine eye* is evil, thy body also *is* full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore *be* full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light. Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Jonas 3:1-4:11

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

And the word of the Lord came to Jonas the second time, saying, Rise, go to Nineve, the great city, and preach in it according to the former preaching which I spoke to thee of. And Jonas arose, and went to Nineve, as the Lord had spoken. Now Nineve was an exceeding great city, of about three days’ journey. And Jonas began to enter into the city about a day’s journey, and he proclaimed, and said, Yet three days, and Nineve shall be overthrown.

And the men of Nineve believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloths, from the greatest of them to the least of them. And the word reached the king of Nineve, and he arose from off his throne, and took off his raiment from him, and put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And proclamation was made, and it was commanded in Nineve by the king and by his great men, saying, Let not men, or cattle, or oxen, or sheep, taste *any thing*, nor feed, nor drink water. So men and cattle were clothed with sackcloths, and cried earnestly to God; and they turned every one from their evil way, and from the iniquity that was in their hands, saying, Who knows if God will repent, and turn from his fierce anger, and *so* we shall not perish? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did *it* not.

But Jonas was very deeply grieved, and he was confounded. And he prayed to the Lord, and said, O Lord, were not these my words when I was yet in my land? therefore I made haste to flee to Tharsis; because I knew that thou are merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and abundant in kindness, and repentest of evil. And now, Lord God, take my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live. And the Lord said to Jonas, Art thou very much grieved?

And Jonas went out from the city, and sat over against the city; and he made for himself there a booth, and he sat under it, until he should perceive what would become of the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonas, to be a shadow over his head, to shade him from his calamities: and Jonas rejoiced with great joy for the gourd. And God commanded a worm the next morning, and it smote the gourd, and it withered away. And it came to pass at the rising of the sun, that God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun smote on the head of Jonas, and he fainted, and despaired of his life, and said, *It is* better for me to die than to live. And God said to Jonas, Art thou very much grieved for the gourd? And he said, I am very much grieved, even to death. And the Lord said, Thou hadst pity on the gourd, for which thou has not suffered, neither didst thou rear it; which came up before night, and perished before *another* night: and shall not I spare Nineve, the great city, in which dwell more than twelve myriads of human beings, who do not know their right hand or their left hand; and *also* much cattle? Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 102:13, 12

A Psalm of David.

Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:25-30

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

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*. Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:1-22

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

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:12-17

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

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:12:20

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

Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 31:1, 5cd

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. I said, I will confess my iniquities before the Lord against myself. And Thou forgavest the ungodliness of my heart. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:32-16:4

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

Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O *ye* hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed. Glory be to God forever.

### The Feast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 29:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

The Lord heard and hath had mercy on me; the Lord became for me a helper. Thou hast turned my mourning into joy for me; Thou hadst rent my sackclocth and girded me with gladness. Alleluia.

##### Mark 8:10-21

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

And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha. And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side. Now *the disciples* had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf. And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and *of* the leaven of Herod. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have no bread. And when Jesus knew *it*, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand? Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

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

For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:17-22

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

For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:22-26

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

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:5, 18

A Psalm of David.

In my trouble, I have cried unto the Lord and He has heard me and brought me into a broad place. For with chastening the Lord has chastened me: but He has not delivered me over to death.Alleluia.

##### John 2:12-25

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

After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord my justice; attend to my petition; give ear to my prayer that is from lips without deceit. Let my judgment come forth from Thy presence; let my eyes behold uprightness. Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:3-6

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

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 118:49, 52

A Psalm of David.

Remember Thy words to Thy servant, upon which Thou hast caused me to hope. I have remembered Thy judgements of old, O Lord; and I was comforted. Alleluia.

##### Mark 13:33-37

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

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. *For the Son of man is* as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16

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

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. I speak not *this* to condemn *you*: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with *you*. Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears. Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more. For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you. Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him. I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all *things*.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:1-14

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

And it came to pass, that after we were gotten from them, and had launched, we came with a straight course unto Coos, and the *day* following unto Rhodes, and from thence unto Patara: And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth. Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden. And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till *we were* out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed. And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again. And when we had finished *our* course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

And the next *day* we that were of Paul’s company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul’s girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 94:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Come let us rejoice in the Lord; let us shout with joy unto God our Savior; let us come before His countenance with confession and with psalms let us shout with joy unto Him. Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Glory be to God forever.

## The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 45:11

A Psalm of David.

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

##### Mark 11:22-26

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

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 99:2, 3c

A Psalm of David.

Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with rejoicing. We are His people and the sheep of His fold. Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:3-10

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

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 11:16-28

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

I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little. That which I speak, I speak *it* not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye *yourselves* are wise. For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour *you*, if a man take *of you*, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

Are they Hebrews? so *am* I. Are they Israelites? so *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so *am* I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge

temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:15-26

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

And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem. There went with us also *certain* of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge. And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave *their* heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but *that* thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written *and* concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from *things* offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 2:11, 10

A Psalm of David.

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

##### Matthew 6:1-18

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

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Glory be to God forever.

### Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:15

A Psalm of David.

With Thy hidden treasures hath their belly been filled. They have satisfied themselves with swine and have left the remnants to their babes. Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:1-13

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

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 2:23-3:5

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

And in those days after a length of time, the king of Egypt died; and the children of Israel groaned because of their tasks, and cried, and their cry because of their tasks went up to God. And God heard their groanings, and God remembered his covenant made with Abraam and Isaac and Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and was made known to them.

And Moses was feeding the flock of Jothor his father-in-law, the priest of Madiam; and he brought the sheep nigh to the wilderness, and came to the mount of Choreb. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him in flaming fire out of the bush, and he sees that the bush burns with fire,—but the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will go near and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed. And when the Lord saw that he drew nigh to see, the Lord called him out of the bush, saying, Moses, Moses; and he said, What is it? And he said, Draw not nigh hither: loose thy sandals from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:2-18

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

Hear, O heaven, and hearken, O earth: for the Lord has spoken, *saying*, I have begotten and reared up children, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel does not know me, and the people has not regarded me. Ah sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children: ye have forsaken the Lord, and provoked the Holy One of Israel. Why should ye be smitten *any* more, transgressing more and more? the whole head is pained, and the whole heart sad. From the feet to the head, there is no soundness in them; neither wound, nor bruise, nor festering ulcer *are healed*: it is not possible to apply a plaister, nor oil, nor bandages. Your land is desolate, your cities burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is made desolate, overthrown by strange nations. The daughter of Sion shall be deserted as a tent in a vineyard, and as a storehouse of fruits in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. And if the Lord of Sabaoth had not left us a seed, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been made like Gomorrha.

Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodoma; attend to the law of God, thou people of Gomorrha. Of what *value* to me is the abundance of your sacrifices? saith the Lord: I am full of whole-burnt-offerings of rams; and I delight not in the fat of lambs, and the blood of bulls and goats: neither shall ye come *with these* to appear before me; for who has required these things at your hands? Ye shall no more tread my court. Though ye bring fine flour, *it is* vain; incense is an abomination to me; I cannot bear your new moons, and your sabbaths, and the great day; *your* fasting, and rest from work, your new moons also, and your feasts my soul hates: ye have become loathsome to me; I will no more pardon your sins. When ye stretch forth your hands, I will turn away mine eyes from you: and though ye make many supplications, I will not hearken to you; for your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, be clean; remove your iniquities from your souls before mine eyes; cease from your iniquities; learn to do well; diligently seek judgement, deliver him that is suffering wrong, plead for the orphan, and obtain justice for the widow. And come, let us reason together, saith the Lord: and though your sins be as purple, I will make them white as snow; and though they be as scarlet, I will make *them* white as wool. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 6:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy wrath. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak. Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:24-34

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

But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:26-2:7

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

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

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

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:19-28

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

And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and *to* Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. And there they abode long time with the disciples.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 21:27

A Psalm of David.

The poor shall eat and be filled and they that seek the Lord shall praise Him; their hearts shall live forever and ever.Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:33-50

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

And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who *should be* the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and servant of all. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me. And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 1:19-2:3a

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

If ye be willing, and hearken to me, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye be not willing, nor hearken to me, a sword shall devour you: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken this.

How has the faithful city Sion, *once* full of judgement, become a harlot! wherein righteousness lodged, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless, thy wine merchants mix the wine with water. Thy princes are rebellious, companions of thieves, loving bribes, seeking after rewards; not pleading for orphans, and not heeding the cause of widows. Therefore thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, Woe to the mighty *men* of Israel; for my wrath shall not cease against mine adversaries, and I will execute judgement on mine enemies. And I will bring my hand upon thee, and purge thee completely, and I will destroy the rebellious, and will take away from thee all transgressors. And I will establish thy judges as before, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: and afterward thou shalt be called the city of righteousness, the faithful mother-city of Sion. For her captives shall be saved with judgement, and with mercy. And the transgressors and the sinners shall be crushed together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be utterly consumed. For they shall be ashamed of their idols, which they delighted in, and they are made ashamed of the gardens which they coveted. For they shall be as a turpentine tree that has cast its leaves, and as a garden that has no water. And their strength shall be as a thread of tow, and their works as sparks, and the transgressors and the sinners shall be burnt up together, and there shall be none to quench *them*.

The word which came to Esaias the son of Amos concerning Judea, and concerning Jerusalem. For in the last days the mountain of the Lord shall be glorious, and the house of God *shall be* on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall come to it. And many nations shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will tell us his way, and we will walk in it. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:7-13

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

Thus saith the Lord Almighty; Behold, I *will* save my people from the east country, and the west country; and I will bring them in, and cause *them* to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be to me a people, and I will be to them a God, in truth and in righteousness.

Thus saith the Lord Almighty; Let your hands be strong, *ye that* hear in these days these words out of the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time that the temple was built. For before those days the wages of men could not be profitable, and there could be no hire of cattle, and there could be no peace by reason of the affliction to him that went out or to him that came in: for I would have let loose all men, every one against his neighbour. But now I *will* not do to the remnant of this people according to the former days, saith the Lord Almighty. But I will shew peace: the vine shall yield her fruit, and the land shall yield her produce, and the heaven shall give its dew: and I will give as an inheritance all these things to the remnant of my people. And it shall come to pass, as ye were a curse among the nations, O house of Juda, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: be of good courage, and strengthen your hands. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 22:1, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

The Lord will shepherd me; therefore I shall not be in want of anything. He has restored my soul: He has led me in the paths of righteousness. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:10-15

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

And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 9:14-29

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

What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-42

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

Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, *even* as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 24:16, 17a

A Psalm of David.

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

##### Luke 12:41-50

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

Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season? Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 2:3-11

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

And many nations shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will tell us his way, and we will walk in it: for out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into sickles: and nation shall not take up sword against nation, neither shall they learn to war any more. And now, O house of Jacob, come, *and* let us walk in the light of the Lord.

For he has forsaken his people the house of Israel, because their land is filled as at the beginning with divinations, as the *land* of the Philistines, and many strange children were born to them. For their land is filled with silver and gold, and there was no number of their treasures; their land also is filled with horses, and there was no number of chariots. And the land is filled with abominations, *even* the works of their hands; and they have worshipped *the works* which their fingers made. And the mean man bowed down, and the great man was humbled: and I will not pardon them.

Now therefore enter ye into the rocks, and hide yourselves in the earth, for fear of the Lord, and by reason of the glory of his might, when he shall arise to strike terribly the earth. For the eyes of the Lord are high, but man is low; and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:12-27

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

Now therefore, saith the Lord your God, turn to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with lamentation: and rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy, and repents of evils. Who knows if he will return, and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meat-offering and a drink-offering to the Lord your God? Sound the trumpet in Sion, sanctify a fast, proclaim a *solemn* service: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the infants at the breast: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Between the porch and the altar let the priests that minister to the Lord weep, and say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them, lest they should say among the heathen, Where is their God?

But the Lord was jealous of his land, and spared his people. And the Lord answered and said to his people, Behold, I *will* send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied with them: and I will no longer make you a reproach among the Gentiles. And I will chase away from you the northern *adversary*, and will drive him away into a dry land, and I will sink his face in the former sea, and his back parts in the latter sea, and his ill savour shall come up, and his stink come up, because he has wrought great things. Be of good courage, O land; rejoice and be glad: for the Lord has done great things. Be of good courage, ye beasts of the plain, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, for the trees have borne their fruit, the fig tree and the vine have yielded their strength. Rejoice then and be glad, ye children of Sion, in the Lord your God: for he has given you food fully, and he will rain on you the early and the latter rain, as before. And the floors shall be filled with corn, and the presses shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will recompense you for the years which the locust, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, and the cankerworm have eaten, *even* my great army, which I sent against you. And ye shall eat abundantly, and be satisfied, and shall praise the name of the Lord your God *for the things* which he has wrought wonderfully with you: and my people shall not be ashamed for ever. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and *that* I am the Lord your God, and *that* there is none else beside me; and my people shall no more be ashamed for ever. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 24:6, 7a

A Psalm of David.

Remember, O Lord, Thy compassions and Thy mercies; for they are since the beginning. The sins of my youth and my ignorances remember them not. Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:24-34

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

But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:19-15:7

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

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence. *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:4b-11

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

Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:9-20

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

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 24:20, 16a

A Psalm of David.

Guard my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I have hoped in Thee. Look upon me and have mercy on me. Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:35-38

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

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Glory be to God forever.

### Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 2:11b-19

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

And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and haughty, and upon every one that is high and towering, and they shall be brought down; and upon every cedar of Libanus, of them that are high and towering, and upon every oak of Basan, and upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, and upon every high tower, and upon every high wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every display of fine ships. And every man shall be brought low, and the pride of men shall fall: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And they shall hide all *idols* made with hands, having carried *them* into the caves, and into the clefts of the rocks, and into the caverns of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and by reason of the glory of his might, when he shall arise to strike terribly the earth. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:18-23

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

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, Thus saith the Lord Almighty, The fourth fast, and the fifth fast, and the seventh fast, and the tenth fast, shall be to the house of Juda for joy and gladness, and for good feasts; and ye shall rejoice; and love ye the truth and peace. Thus saith the Lord Almighty; Yet shall many peoples come, and the inhabitants of many cities; and the inhabitants of five cities shall come together to one city, saying, Let us go to make supplication to the Lord, and to seek the face of the Lord Almighty; I will go also. And many peoples and many nations shall come to seek earnestly the face of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem, and to obtain favour of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord Almighty; In those days *my word shall be fulfilled* if ten men of all the languages of the nations should take hold—even take hold of the hem of a Jew, saying, We will go with thee; for we have heard that God is with you. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 23:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

The earth is the Lord's, and its fullness; the world, and all they that dwell in it. He has founded it upon the seas, and has prepared it upon the rivers. Alleluia.

##### Luke 8:22-25

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

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

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

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power. What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of meekness?

It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:3-13

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

As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:14, 18

A Psalm of David.

My strength and my praise is the Lord, He has become to me salvation. For with chastening the Lord has chastened me: but He has not delivered me over to death. Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:21-29

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

And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. Glory be to God forever.

### Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 6:3-7:26

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

Hear, therefore, O Israel, and observe to do them, that it may be well with thee, and that ye may be greatly multiplied, as the Lord God of thy fathers said that he would give thee a land flowing with milk and honey: and these *are* the ordinances, and the judgments, which the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the wilderness, when they had gone forth from the land of Egypt.

Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and all thy strength. And these words, all that I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart and in thy soul. And thou shalt teach them to thy children, and thou shalt speak of them sitting in the house, and walking by the way, and lying down, and rising up. And thou shalt fasten them for a sign upon thy hand, and it shall be immoveable before thine eyes. And ye shall write them on the lintels of your houses and of your gates. And it shall come to pass when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware to thy fathers, to Abraam, and to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and beautiful cities which thou didst not build, houses full of all good things which thou didst not fill, wells dug in the rock which thou didst not dig, vineyards and oliveyards which thou didst not plant, then having eaten and been filled, beware lest thou forget the Lord thy God that brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve; and thou shalt cleave to him, and by his name thou shalt swear. Go ye not after other gods of the gods of the nations round about you; for the Lord thy God in the midst of thee *is* a jealous God, lest the Lord thy God be very angry with thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God, as ye tempted him in the temptation.

Thou shalt by all means keep the commands of the Lord thy God, the testimonies, and the ordinances, which he commanded thee. And thou shalt do that which is pleasing and good before the Lord thy God, that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and inherit the good land, which the Lord sware to your fathers, to chase all thine enemies from before thy face, as the Lord said. And it shall come to pass when thy son shall ask thee at a future time, saying, What are the testimonies, and the ordinances, and the judgments, which the Lord our God has commanded us? Then shalt thou say to thy son, We were slaves to Pharao in the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought us forth thence with a mighty hand, and with a high arm. And the Lord wrought signs and great and grievous wonders in Egypt, on Pharao and on his house before us. And he brought us out thence to give us this land, which he sware to give to our fathers. And the Lord charged us to observe all these ordinances; to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us for ever, that we may live, as even to-day. And there shall be mercy to us, if we take heed to keep all these commands before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.

And when the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land, into which thou goest to possess it, and shall remove great nations from before thee, the Chettite, and Gergesite, and Amorite, and Chananite, and Pherezite, and Evite, and Jebusite, seven nations *more* numerous and stronger than you, and the Lord thy God shall deliver them into thy hands, then thou shalt smite them: thou shalt utterly destroy them: thou shalt not make a covenant with them, neither shall ye pity them: neither shall ye contract marriages with them: thou shalt not give thy daughter to his son, and thou shalt not take his daughter to thy son. For he will draw away thy son from me, and he will serve other gods; and the Lord will be very angry with you, and will soon utterly destroy thee. But thus shall ye do to them; ye shall destroy their altars, and shall break down their pillars, and shall cut down their groves, and shall burn with fire the graven images of their gods. For thou art a holy people to the Lord thy God; and the Lord thy God chose thee to be to him a peculiar people beyond all nations that *are* upon the face of the earth. It was not because ye are more numerous than all *other* nations that the Lord preferred you, and the Lord made choice of you: for ye are fewer in number than all *other* nations. But because the Lord loved you, and as keeping the oath which he sware to your fathers, the Lord brought you out with a strong hand, and the Lord redeemed thee from the house of bondage, out of the hand of Pharao king of Egypt. Thou shalt know therefore, that the Lord thy God, he *is* God, a faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for them that love him, and for those that keep his commandments to a thousand generations, and who recompenses them that hate him to their face, to destroy them utterly; and will not be slack with them that hate him: he will recompense them to their face. Thou shalt keep therefore the commands, and the ordinances, and these judgments, which I command thee this day to do.

And it shall come to pass when ye shall have heard these ordinances, and shall have kept and done them, that the Lord thy God shall keep for thee the covenant and the mercy, which he sware to your fathers. And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee; and he will bless the off-spring of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the herds of thine oxen, and the flocks of thy sheep, on the land which the Lord sware to thy fathers to give to thee. Thou shalt be blessed beyond all nations; there shall not be among you an impotent or barren one, or among thy cattle. And the Lord thy God shall remove from thee all sickness; and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou hast seen, and all that thou hast known, will he lay upon thee; but he will lay them upon all that hate thee. And thou shalt eat all the spoils of the nations which the Lord thy God gives thee; thine eye shall not spare them, and thou shalt not serve their gods; for this is an offence to thee. But if thou shouldest say in thine heart, This nation *is* greater than I, how shall I be able to destroy them utterly? thou shalt not fear them; thou shalt surely remember all that the Lord thy God did to Pharao and to all the Egyptians: the great temptations which thine eyes have seen, those signs and great wonders, the strong hand, and the high arm; how the Lord thy God brought thee forth: so the Lord your God will do to all the nations, whom thou fearest in their presence. And the Lord thy God shall send against them the hornets, until they that are left and they that are hidden from thee be utterly destroyed. Thou shalt not be wounded before them, because the Lord thy God in the midst of thee *is* a great and powerful God. And the Lord thy God shall consume these nations before thee by little and little: thou shalt not be able to consume them speedily, lest the land become desert, and the wild beasts of the field be multiplied against thee. And the Lord thy God shall deliver them into thy hands, and thou shalt destroy them with a great destruction, until ye shall have utterly destroyed them. And he shall deliver their kings into your hands, and ye shall destroy their name from that place; none shall stand up in opposition before thee, until thou shalt have utterly destroyed them. Ye shall burn with fire the graven images of their gods: thou shalt not covet *their* silver, neither shalt thou take to thyself gold from them, lest thou shouldest offend thereby, because it is an abomination to the Lord thy God. And thou shalt not bring an abomination into thine house, so shouldest thou be an accursed thing like it; thou shalt utterly hate it, and altogether abominate it, because it is an accursed thing. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 3:1-14a

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

Behold now, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will take away from Jerusalem and from Judea the mighty man and mighty woman, the strength of bread, and the strength of water, the great and mighty man, the warrior and the judge, and the prophet, and the counsellor, and the elder, the captain of fifty also, and the honourable counsellor, and the wise artificer, and the intelligent hearer. And I will make youths their princes, and mockers shall have dominion over them. And the people shall fall, man upon man, and *every* man upon his neighbor: the child shall insult the elder man, and the base the honourable. For a man shall lay hold of his brother, as one of his father’s household, saying, Thou hast raiment, be thou our ruler, and let my meat be under thee. And he shall answer in that day, and say, I will not be thy ruler; for I have no bread in my house, nor raiment: I will not be the ruler of this people. For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judea has fallen, and their tongues *have spoken* with iniquity, disobedient *as they are* towards the Lord.

Wherefore now their glory has been brought low, and the shame of their countenance has withstood them, and they have proclaimed their sin as Sodom, and made it manifest. Woe to their soul, for they have devised an evil counsel against themselves, saying against themselves, Let us bind the just, for he is burdensome to us: therefore shall they eat the fruits of their works. Woe to the transgressor! evils shall happen to him according to the works of his hands. O my people, your exactors strip you, and extortioners rule over you: O my people, they that pronounce you blessed lead you astray, and pervert the path of your feet. But now the Lord will stand up for judgement, and will enter into judgement with his people. The Lord himself shall enter into judgement with the elders of the people, and with their rulers. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 29:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will exalt Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast received me and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I have cried unto Thee and Thou hast healed me. Alleluia.

##### Luke 5:12-16

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

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on *his* face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:6-21

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

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, *let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John (all)

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

The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true. I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:42-3:9

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

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*. And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 12:6, 7

A Psalm of David.

But as for me, I have hoped in Thy mercy. My heart will rejoice in Thy Salvation. I will praise the Lord, Who has done good things to me and I will sing to the Name of the Lord Most High. Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:1-10

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

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Glory be to God forever.

### Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 118:57, 58

A Psalm of David.

Thou art my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Thy commandments. I have entreated Thy face with all my heart: have mercy on me according to Thy word. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:25-37

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

Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:1-21

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

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, *let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

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

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:27-39

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

And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all *men* every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul. Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him. And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek? Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers? But Paul said, I am a man *which am* a Jew of Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 5:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

Listen to my words, O Lord, and understand my cry. Hearken to the voice of my supplication, my King, and my God.Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:38-48

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

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Glory be to God forever.

## The First Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord my justice; attend to my petition; give ear to my prayer that is from lips without deceit. Let my judgment come forth from Thy presence; let my eyes behold uprightness. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 6:34-7:12

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

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 17:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

I love Thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my foundation and my refuge and my deliverer. My God is my help and I will hope in Him. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:22-29

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

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 13:1-14

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

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:40-22:16

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

And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto *them* in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence *which I make* now unto you. (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, *and* taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

I have lifted up my soul unto Thee, O Lord. My God, I have put my trust in Thee: let me not be ashamed, Manifest unto me Thy ways, O Lord; and teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 6:19-33

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

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 47:11c, 12

A Psalm of David.

Thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Sion be glad and let the daughters of Judaea rejoice because of Thy judgments, O Lord. Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:27-38

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

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 3:6-14

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

And God said unto Moses, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraam, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and Moses turned away his face, for he was afraid to gaze at God.

And the Lord said to Moses, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that is in Egypt, and I have heard their cry *caused* by their task-masters; for I know their affliction. And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of that land, and to bring them into a good and wide land, into a land flowing with milk and honey, into the place of the Chananites, and the Chettites, and Amorites, and Pherezites, and Gergesites, and Evites, and Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come to me, and I have seen the affliction with which the Egyptians afflict them. And now come, I will send thee to Pharao king of Egypt, and thou shalt bring out my people the children of Israel from the land of Egypt.

And Moses said to God, Who am I, that I should go to Pharao king of Egypt, and that I should bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt? And God spoke to Moses, saying, I will be with thee, and this shall be the sign to thee that I shall send thee forth,—when thou bringest out my people out of Egypt, then ye shall serve God in this mountain. And Moses said to God, Behold, I shall go forth to the children of Israel, and shall say to them, The God of our fathers has sent me to you; and they will ask me, What is his name? What shall I say to them? And God spoke to Moses, saying, I am THE BEING; and he said, Thus shall ye say to the children of Israel, THE BEING has sent me to you. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 4:2-5:7a

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

And in that day God shall shine gloriously in counsel on the earth, to exalt and glorify the remnant of Israel. And it shall be, *that* the remnant left in Sion, and the remnant left in Jerusalem, *even* all that are appointed to life in Jerusalem, shall be called holy. For the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and daughters of Sion, and shall purge out the blood from the midst of them, with the spirit of judgement, and the spirit of burning. And he shall come, and it shall be with regard to every place of mount Sion, yea, all the region round about it shall a cloud overshadow by day, and *there shall be* as it were the smoke and light of fire burning by night: and upon all the glory shall be a defence. And it shall be for a shadow from the heat, and as a shelter and a hiding place from inclemency *of weather* and from rain.

Now I will sing to *my* beloved a song of my beloved concerning my vineyard. *My* beloved had a vineyard on a high hill in a fertile place. And I made a hedge round it, and dug a trench, and planted a choice vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and dug a place for the wine-vat in it: and I waited *for it* to bring forth grapes, and it brought forth thorns. And now, ye dwellers in Jerusalem, and *every* man of Juda, judge between me and my vineyard. What shall I do any more to my vineyard, that I have not done to it? Whereas I expected *it* to bring forth grapes, but it has brought forth thorns. And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be for a spoil; and I will pull down its walls, and it shall be *left* to be trodden down. And I will forsake my vineyard; and it shall not be pruned, nor dug, and thorns shall come up upon it as on barren land; and I will command the clouds to rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Juda *his* beloved plant. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 39:12

A Psalm of David.

But Thou, O Lord, remove not Thy compassions far from me; Thy mercy and Thy righteousness have upheld me at all times. Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:25-29

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

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, *Thou* dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And *the spirit* cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:18-25

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

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1-8

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

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:36-5:11

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

And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 28:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Bring unto the Lord, O ye children of God; bring unto the Lord the offspring of rams; bring unto the Lord glory and honour Bring unto the Lord the glory of His Name.Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:1-8

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

And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Job 19:1-27

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

Then Job answered and said, How long will ye vex my soul, and destroy me with words? only know that the Lord has dealt with me thus. Ye speak against me; ye do not feel for me, but bear hard upon me. Yea verily, I have erred in truth, (but the error abides with myself) in having spoken words which it was not right *to speak*; and my words err, and are unreasonable. But alas! for ye magnify yourselves against me, and insult me with reproach. Know then that it is the Lord that has troubled *me*, and has raised his bulwark against me. Behold, I laugh at reproach; I will not speak: *or* I will cry out, but *there is* nowhere judgment.

I am fenced round about, and can by no means escape: he has set darkness before my face. And he has stripped me of my glory, and has taken the crown from my head. He has torn me around about, and I am gone: and he has cut off my hope like a tree. And he has dreadfully handled me in anger, and has counted me for an enemy. His troops also came upon me with one accord, liers in wait compassed my ways. My brethren have stood aloof from me; they have recognized strangers *rather* than me: and my friends have become pitiless. My nearest of kin have not acknowledged me, and they that knew my name, have forgotten me. *As for* my household, and my maid-servants, I was a stranger before them. I called my servant, and he hearkened not; and my mouth intreated *him*. And I besought my wife, and earnestly intreated the sons of my concubines. But they rejected me for ever; whenever I rise up, they speak against me. They that saw me abhorred me: the very persons whom I had loved, rose up against me. My flesh is corrupt under my skin, and my bones are held in *my* teeth. Pity me, pity me, O friends; for it is the hand of the Lord that has touched me. Wherefore do ye persecute me as also the Lord *does*, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

For oh that my words were written, and that they were recorded in a book forever, with an iron pen and lead, or graven in the rocks! For I know that he is eternal who is about to deliver me, *and* to raise up upon the earth my skin that endures these *sufferings*: for these things have been accomplished to me of the Lord; which I am conscious of in myself, which mine eye has seen, and not another, but all have been fulfilled to me in *my* bosom. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:7-16

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

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Juda *his* beloved plant: I expected *it* to bring forth judgement, and it brought forth iniquity; and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe *to them* that join house to house, and add field to field, that they may take away something of their neighbor’s: will ye dwell alone upon the land? For these things have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts: for though many houses should be built, many and fair houses shall be desolate, and there shall be no inhabitants in them. For where ten yoke of oxen plough *the land* shall yield one jar-full, and he that sows six homers shall produce three measures. Woe *to them* that rise up in the morning, and follow strong drink; who wait *at it till* evening: for the wine shall inflame them. For they drink wine with harp, and psaltery, and drums, and pipes: but they regard not the works of the Lord, and consider not the works of his hands. Therefore my people have been taken captive, because they know not the Lord: and there has been a multitude of dead *bodies*, because of hunger and of thirst for water. Therefore hell has enlarged its desire and opened its mouth without ceasing: and her glorious and great, and her rich and her pestilent men shall go down *into it*. And the mean man shall be brought low, and the great man shall be disgraced, and the lofty eyes shall be brought low. But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgement, and the holy God shall be glorified in righteousness. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 40:5, 14

A Psalm of David.

I myself, said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul for I have sinned against Thee. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. So be it. Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:22-31

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

And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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

But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. sNow he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal distribution unto them, and unto all *men*; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

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

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-22

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

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 40:2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who understands concerning the poor and the needy; in the evil day the Lord will deliver him.Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:17-27

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

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 2:11-20

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

And it came to pass in that length of time, that Moses having grown, went out to his brethren the sons of Israel: and having noticed their distress, he sees an Egyptian smiting a certain Hebrew of his brethren the children of Israel. And having looked round this way and that way, he sees no one; and he smote the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And having gone out the second day he sees two Hebrew men fighting; and he says to the injurer, Wherefore smitest thou thy neighbour? And he said, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? wilt thou slay me as thou yesterday slewest the Egyptian? Then Moses was alarmed, and said, If *it be* thus, this matter has become known. And Pharao heard this matter, and sought to slay Moses; and Moses departed from the presence of Pharao, and dwelt in the land of Madiam; and having come into the land of Madiam, he sat on the well.

And the priest of Madiam had seven daughters, feeding the flock of their father Jothor; and they came and drew water until they filled their pitchers, to water the flock of their father Jothor. And the shepherds came, and were driving them away; and Moses rose up and rescued them, and drew water for them, and watered their sheep. And they came to Raguel their father; and he said to them, Why have ye come so quickly to-day? And they said, An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds, and drew water for us and watered our sheep. And he said to his daughters, And where is he? and why have ye left the man? call him therefore, that he may eat bread. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:17-25

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

And they that were spoiled shall be fed as bulls, and lambs shall feed on the waste places of them that are taken away.

Woe *to them* that draw sins to them as with a long rope, and iniquities as with a thong of the heifer’s yoke: who say, Let him speedily hasten what he will do, that we may see *it*: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know *it*. Woe *to them* that call evil good, and good evil; who make darkness light, and light darkness; who make bitter sweet, and sweet bitter. Woe *to them* that are wise in their own conceit, and knowing in their own sight. Woe to the strong *ones* of you that drink wine, and the mighty *ones* that mingle strong drink: who justify the ungodly for rewards, and take away the righteousness of the righteous. Therefore as stubble shall be burnt by a coal of fire, and shall be consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be as chaff, and their flower shall go up as dust: for they rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and insulted the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the Lord of hosts was greatly angered against his people, and he reached forth his hand upon them, and smote them: and the mountains were troubled, and their carcasses were as dung in the midst of the way: yet for all this his anger has not been turned away, but his hand is yet raised. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 17:18c, 19

A Psalm of David.

For they are stronger than I. They overtook me in the day of my affliction and the Lord became my support. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:17-24

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

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:1-17

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

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is* God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not *rather*, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just. What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John 8-13

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

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Having many things to write unto you, I would not *write* with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:3-11

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

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 17:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

I love Thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my foundation and my refuge and my deliverer. My God is my help and I will hope in Him.Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:32-38

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

Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 5:15-22

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

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God brought thee out thence with a mighty hand, and a high arm: therefore the Lord appointed thee to keep the sabbath day and to sanctify it. Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God commanded thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long upon the land, which the Lord thy God gives thee. Thou shalt not commit murder. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, nor his field, nor his man-servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any beast of his, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s. These words the Lord spoke to all the assembly of you in the mountain out of the midst of the fire—*there was* darkness, blackness, storm, a loud voice—and he added no more, and he wrote them on two tables of stone, and he gave them to me. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 6:1-12

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

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 27:9

A Psalm of David.

Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; shepherd them and exalt them forever. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:20-30

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

Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*. Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 16:17-27

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

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. I Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, salute you in the Lord. Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:12-23

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

And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished. But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter. And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and *there* abode.

And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king’s chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king’s *country*. And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 47:11c, 12

A Psalm of David.

Thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Sion be glad and let the daughters of Judea rejoice because of Thy judgments, O Lord. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 19:16-30

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

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 8:1-9:4

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

Ye shall observe to do all the commands which I charge you to-day, that ye may live and be multiplied, and enter in and inherit the land, which the Lord your God sware *to give* to your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee in the wilderness, that he might afflict thee, and try thee, and that the things in thine heart might be made manifest, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments or no. And he afflicted thee and straitened thee with hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thy fathers knew not; that he might teach thee that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God shall man live. Thy garments grew not old from off thee, thy shoes were not worn from off thee, thy feet were not *painfully* hardened, lo! these forty years. And thou shalt know in thine heart, that as if any man should chasten his son, so the Lord thy God will chasten thee. And thou shalt keep the commands of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the Lord thy God will bring thee into a good and extensive land, where there are torrents of waters, and fountains of deep places issuing through the plains and through the mountains: a land of wheat and barley, *wherein are* vines, figs, pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land on which thou shalt not eat thy bread with poverty, and thou shalt not want any thing upon it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of its mountains thou shalt dig brass.

And thou shalt eat and be filled, and shalt bless the Lord thy God on the good land, which he has given thee. Take heed to thyself that thou forget not the Lord thy God, so as not to keep his commands, and his judgments, and ordinances, which I command thee this day: lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt in them; and thy oxen and thy sheep are multiplied to thee, and thy silver and thy gold are multiplied to thee, and all thy possessions are multiplied to thee, thou shouldest be exalted in heart, and forget the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage: who brought thee through that great and terrible wilderness, where *is* the biting serpent, and scorpion, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee a fountain of water out of the flinty rock: who fed thee with manna in the wilderness, which thou knewest not, and thy fathers knew not; that he might afflict thee, and thoroughly try thee, and do thee good in thy latter days. Lest thou shouldest say in thine heart, My strength, and the power of mine hand have wrought for me this great wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, that he gives thee strength to get wealth; even that he may establish his covenant, which the Lord sware to thy fathers, as at this day. And it shall come to pass if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and shouldest go after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall surely perish. As also the other nations which the Lord God destroys before your face, so shall ye perish, because ye hearkened not to the voice of the Lord your God.

Hear, O Israel: Thou goest this day across Jordan to inherit nations greater and stronger than yourselves, cities great and walled up to heaven; a people great and many and tall, the sons of Enac, whom thou knowest, and concerning whom thou hast heard *say*, Who can stand before the children of Enac? And thou shalt know to-day, that the Lord thy God he shall go before thy face: he is a consuming fire; he shall destroy them, and he shall turn them back before thee, and shall destroy them quickly, as the Lord said to thee. Speak not in thine heart, when the Lord thy God has destroyed these nations before thy face, saying, For my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land. Not for thy righteousness, nor for the holiness of thy heart, dost thou go in to inherit their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord will destroy them from before thee. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

And the Philistine advanced morning and evening, and stood up forty days. And Jessae said to David, Take now to thy brethren an ephah of this meal, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp and give them to thy brothers. And thou shalt carry to the captain of the thousand these ten cheeses of milk, and thou shalt see how thy brethren fare, and learn what they want. And Saul himself and all the men of Israel were in the valley of the Oak, warring with the Philistines. And David rose early in the morning, and left the sheep to a keeper, and took and went as Jessae commanded him, and he came to the trench and to the army as it was going out to fight, and they shouted for the battle. And Israel and the Philistines formed their lines one opposite the other. And David deposited his burden in the hand of a keeper, and ran to the line, and went and asked his brethren how they were. And while he was speaking with them, behold the Amessaean advanced, Goliath by name, the Philistine of Geth, of the armies of the Philistines, and he spoke as before, and David heard. And all the men of Israel when they saw the man fled from before him, and they were greatly terrified. And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that comes up? for he has reproached Israel and has come up; and it shall be that the man who shall smite him, the king shall enrich him with great wealth, and shall give him his daughter, and shall make his gather’s house free in Israel. And David spoke to the men who stood with him, saying, Shall it indeed be done *thus* to the man who shall smite that Philistine, and take away reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he has defied the army of the living God? And the people spoke to him according to this word, saying, Thus shall it be done to the man who shall smite him. And Eliab his elder brother heard as he spoke to the men, and Eliab was very angry with David and said, Why hast thou thus come down, and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride and the naughtiness of thine heart, for thou art come down to see the battle. And David said, What have I done now? Have I no business here? And he turned from him toward another, and he spoke after the same manner; and the people answered him after the former manner.

And the words which David spoke were heard, and were reported to Saul. And he took him to himself. And David said to Saul, Let not, I pray thee, the heart of my lord be dejected within him: thy servant will go, and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou wilt not in anywise be able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou art a mere youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said to Saul, Thy servant was tending the flock for his father; and when a lion came and a she-bear, and took a sheep out of the flock, then I went forth after him, and smote him, and drew *the spoil* out of his mouth: and as he rose up against me, then I caught hold of his throat, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear, and the uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them: shall I not go and smite him, and remove this day a reproach from Israel? For who *is* this uncircumcised one, who has defied the army of the living God? The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the Lord shall be with thee. And Saul clothed David with a military coat, and *put* his brazen helmet on his head. And he girt David with his sword over his coat: and he made trial walking *with them* once and again: and David said to Saul, I shall not be able to go with these, for I have not proved *them*: so they remove them from him.

And he took his staff in his hand, and he chose for himself five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in the shepherd’s scrip which he had for his store, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine. And the Philistine advanced and drew nigh to David, and a man bearing his shield went before him, and the Philistine looked on. And Goliath saw David, and despised him; for he was a lad, and ruddy, with a fair countenance. And the Philistine said to David, Am I as a dog, that thou comest against me with a staff and stones? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh to the birds of the air, and to the beasts of the earth. And David said to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with sword, and with spear, and with shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord God of hosts of the army of Israel, which thou hast defied this day. And the Lord shall deliver thee this day into my hand; and I will slay thee, and take away thy head from off thee, and will give thy limbs and the limbs of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky, and to the wild beasts of the earth; and all the earth shall know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord delivers not by sword or spear, for the battle *is* the Lord’s, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands.

And the Philistine arose and went to meet David. And David stretched out his hand to his scrip, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine on his forehead, and the stone penetrated through the helmet into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the ground.So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and smote the Philistine and slew him, and there was no sword in the hand of David. And David ran, and stood upon him, and took his sword, and slew him, and cut off his head: and the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled. And the men of Israel and Juda arose, and shouted and pursued them as far as the entrance to Geth, and as far as the gate of Ascalon: and the slain men of the Philistines fell in the way of the gates, both to Geth, and to Accaron. And the men of Israel returned from pursuing after the Philistines, and they destroyed their camp. And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

And there came out women in dances to meet David out of all the cities of Israel, with timbrels, and with rejoicing, and with cymbals. And the women began *the strain*, and said, Saul has smitten his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And it seemed evil in the eyes of Saul concerning this matter, and he said, To David they have given ten thousands, and to me they have given thousands. And what more can he have but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and onward.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 7:1-14

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

And it came to pass in the days of Achaz *the son* of Joatham, the son of Ozias, king of Juda, there came up Rasim king of Aram, and Phakee son of Romelias, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it, but they could not take it. And a message was brought to the house of David, saying, Aram has conspired with Ephraim. And his soul was amazed, and the soul of his people, as in a wood a tree is moved by the wind. And the Lord said to Esaias, Go forth to meet Achaz, thou, and thy son Jasub who is left, to the pool of the upper way of the fuller’s field. And thou shalt say to him, Take care to be quiet, and fear not, neither let thy soul be disheartened because of these two smoking firebrands: for when my fierce anger is over, I will heal again. And *as for* the son of Aram, and the son of Romelias, forasmuch as they have devised an evil counsel, *saying*, We will go up against Judea, and having conferred with them we will turn them away to our side, and we will make the son of Tabeel king of it; thus saith the Lord of hosts, This counsel shall not abide, nor come to pass. But the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus, Rasim; and yet within sixty and five years the kingdom of Ephraim shall cease from *being* a people. And the head of Ephraim is Somoron, and the head of Somoron the son of Romelias: but if ye believe not, neither will ye at all understand.

And the Lord again spoke to Achaz, saying, Ask for thyself a sign of the Lord thy God, in the depth or in the height. And Achaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; is it a little thing for you to contend with men? and how do ye contend against the Lord? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Emmanuel. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 11:1-20

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

Then Sophar the Minaean answered and said, He that speaks much, should also hear on the other side: or does the fluent speaker think himself to be righteous? blessed *is* the short lived offspring of woman. Be not a speaker of many words; for is there none to answer thee? For say not, I am pure in my works, and blameless before him. But oh that the Lord would speak to thee, and open his lips to thee! Then shall he declare to thee the power of wisdom; for it shall be double of that which is with thee: and then shalt thou know, that a just recompence of thy sins has come to thee from the Lord.

Wilt thou find out the traces of the Lord? or hast thou come to the end *of that* which the Almighty has made? Heaven *is* high; and what wilt thou do? and there are deeper things than those in hell; what dost thou know? Or longer than the measure of the earth, or the breadth of the sea. And if he should overthrow all things, who will say to him, What hast thou done? For he knows the works of transgressors; and when he sees wickedness, he will not overlook *it*. But man vainly buoys himself up with words; and a mortal born of woman *is* like an ass in the desert.

For if thou hast made thine heart pure, and liftest up *thine* hands towards him; if there is any iniquity in thy hands, put if far from thee, and let not unrighteousness lodge in thy habitation. For thus shall thy countenance shine again, as pure water; and thou shalt divest thyself of uncleanness, and shalt not fear. And thou shalt forget trouble, as a wave that has passed by; and thou shalt not be scared. And thy prayer *shall be* as the morning star, and life shall arise to thee *as* from the noonday. And thou shalt be confident, because thou hast hope; and peace shall dawn to thee from out of anxiety and care. For thou shalt be at ease, and there shall be no one to fight against thee; and many shall charge, and make supplication to thee. But safety shall fail them; for their hope is destruction, and the eyes of the ungodly shall waste away. Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 114:7, 8a first half of b

A Psalm of David.

Return, O my soul unto thy resting place; for the Lord has done good unto me. He has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:39-16:12

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

And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O *ye* hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread. *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:28-13:16

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

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:7-16

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

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:22-31

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

Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: *Which* when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 28:10b, 11

A Psalm of David.

The Lord shall sit as King forever. The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:39-49

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

And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother’s eye. For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 24:7bc, 8a, 11

A Psalm of David.

According to Thy mercy remember Thou me, for the sake of Thy goodness, O Lord. For good and upright is the Lord. For the sake of Thy Name, O Lord, Thou shalt forgive me my sin; for it is great. Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:43-50

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

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:1-18

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

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, *As* I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother’s way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-27

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

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion *is* vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-30

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

And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

And they gave him audience unto this word, and *then* lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a *fellow* from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. And as they cried out, and cast off *their* clothes, and threw dust into the air, The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? When the centurion heard *that*, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was *free* born. Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from *his* bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:19, 20

A Psalm of David.

Open to me the gates of righteousness: that I may go into them, and confess to the Lord: this is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter into it. Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:13-21

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

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Glory be to God forever.

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 50:3,

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O God,

in Your great mercy;

and according to the abundance of Your compassion,

[You will] blot out my transgression.

Turn Your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 1:12-15

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 56:2

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,

for my soul trusts in You;

and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings

until iniquity passes away.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

In reply, Jesus said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:19-15:7

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

And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, “The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

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

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, “Sit here in a good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there,” or “Sit by my footstool!” Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:1-11

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

Looking straight at the Sanhedrin, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day.” Then Ananias, the high priest, ordered those who stood by him to strike Paul on the mouth.

At this, Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to judge me according to the law, and [yet] command me to be struck contrary to the law?”

Those who stood by said, “Do you insult God’s high priest?”

Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’” But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 26:8c, 9acd

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, will I seek after Your face.

Do not turn Your face from me.

Be my helper, do not utterly cast me away;

Do not forsake me, O God, my Saviour.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

But Jesus answered, “It is written:

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

Then the devil took him to the holy city. He placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will put his angels in charge of you’ and [also],

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

Jesus replied, “But it is also written, ‘You shall not put the Lord, your God to the test.’”

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

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

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

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 40:1

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

In reply, Jesus said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 1:20-35

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

Wisdom sings in the streets;

She moves boldly in the squares.

She preaches on high city walls

And sits at the gates of lords.

At the gates of a city she boldly says,

“So long a time as the simple hold fast to righteousness,

They shall not be ashamed;

But those without discernment, since they are desirous of arrogance,

And are become ungodly, they hate perception,

And are become subject to reproofs.

Behold, I shall bring forth upon you the utterance of my breath,

And I shall teach you my word.

Since I called, but you did not obey,

And spoke at length, but you paid no attention,

But made my counsels invalid,

And were not persuaded by my reproofs;

Consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation,

And will exult when ruin comes to you,

And when confusion reaches you unawares,

And overthrow comes like a whirlwind,

And when tribulation and anguish come to you,

And when destruction comes to you.

For it shall be, when you shall call upon me,

I will not listen to you;

Evil men will seek me, but not find me,

For they hate wisdom, and choose not the fear of the Lord.

Neither do they wish to follow my counsels,

But despise my reproofs.

Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way

And be filled with their own ungodliness.

For since they wrong the simple, they shall be killed,

And a close examination shall destroy the ungodly.

But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope,

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 8:13-9:6

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

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

Then they who seal the law so as not to learn it themselves shall be evident. But One will say, “I shall wait for God who turned His face away from the house of Jacob, and I will trust in Him, behold, I and the children God gave me.” This will be for signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion. So if they should say to you, “Seek those who call from the earth and are ventriloquists, who speak from the belly,” should not a nation seek their God? Why do they seek the dead on behalf of the living? He gave the law to help them, so as not to speak such a word as this, concerning which word there are no gifts to offer with it. Thus a harsh famine will come upon you, and it shall be, when you are hungry, you will be grieved, and speak badly of your ruler and the idols. Then they shall look up to heaven above, and on the earth below, and behold, tribulation, distress, and darkness. There will be severe despair and darkness, so dark one cannot see. And the one who is in despair shall be perplexed, but only for a time.

Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine. The multitude of the people, whom You brought down in Your joy, they shall also rejoice in Your presence, as those who rejoice in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoils. For the yoke lying upon them and the rod upon their neck is taken away, for the Lord broke the rod of the exactors as in the day of Midian. For every robe and garment gathered by deceit, they shall repay with money, and they shall be willing to do this, even though they were burned with fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 31:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

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

Alleluia.

##### Luke 19:11-28

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

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

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

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

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

And so, the king said to him, ‘And you are to be set over five cities.’ Another came, saying: ‘Lord, behold, your mina, which I kept laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a strict man! You take up what you did not lay down, and you reap what you did not sow.’

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:5

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

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral; yet I did not mean with the immoral people of this world, or with those who are greedy, dishonest, or idolaters; or else you would have to leave the world! But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging

those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers?

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:10-14

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

At once, the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now, the Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men. But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Beroea, they came there to stir up the crowds. Then, the brethren immediately led Paul away to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained there.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 31:5

A Psalm of David.

I made my sin known to You,

and no longer hid my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess to the Lord against myself, declaring my sin,”

and You forgave the ungodliness of my sin.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:33-36

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

No one who has lit a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket! Instead, it is placed on a stand so that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye! Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is full of darkness. And so, see whether the light that is in you is not darkness. If your whole body is full of light, having no dark part, it will be completely full of light, as when the lamp with its bright shining gives you light.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 2:1-15

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

My son, if you receive the words of my commandment

And hide them within yourself,

Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,

And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.

For if he calls upon wisdom,

And you utter your voice for understanding;

If you seek perception with a strong voice,

If you seek her as silver

And search for her as treasure,

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord

And find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

And from His face come knowledge and understanding;

And He stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;

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

Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,

And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

And the perception in your soul seems to be good,

Then good counsel will guard you,

And holy thinking will keep you;

That it might rescue you from an evil way

And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness

So they may walk in the ways of darkness,

Who delight in evils

And rejoice in evil perversion,

Whose ways are crooked

And their paths devious.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 10:12-20

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

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

Shall the ax glorify itself without him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself without him who saws with it? It is likewise if one should lift a rod or a piece of wood. But it shall not be so, for the Lord of hosts will send dishonor against your honor; and He will kindle a burning fire against your glory. So the Light of Israel will be as a fire, and He will sanctify him with burning fire; and it will devour the wood like grass on that day. The mountains, the hills, and the forests will be consumed, and devour both soul and body, and he who flees will be like one fleeing from a burning flame. Then the remnant will be few in number, and a child shall write them.

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 7:1-26\*

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

But the children of Israel committed a great offense, for they kept back for themselves something from what was accursed. Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took something from what was accursed, and the Lord was very angry with the sons of Israel. Then Joshua sent men into Ai, which is near Bethel, saying, “Spy out Ai.” So the men went up, and spied out Ai. After this, they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and force the city to surrender. Do not lead all the people there, for they are few in number.” Thus, about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the face of the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed thirty-six of them and pursued them from the gate; and they crushed them on the steep slope. So the hearts of the people were terrified and became as water.

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

So the Lord said to Joshua, “Rise up. Why have you fallen upon your face? The people sinned and transgressed the covenant I made with them; for they stole something from what was accursed and put it among their goods. So the sons of Israel will be unable to stand against the face of their enemies. They will turn their backs before their enemies, because they are accursed; and I will not be with you until you remove the accursed thing from among you. Rise up and sanctify the people; and tell them to be sanctified for tomorrow. Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘The accursed thing is among you. You shall not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove the accursed thing from among you. In the morning you shall all be gathered together by your tribes, and it shall come to pass that the tribe the Lord points out, you shall bring forward family by family. Then the family the Lord points out, you shall bring household by household. After this, the household the Lord points out, you shall bring man by man. So whoever is pointed out, he shall be burned with fire along with whatever he has, because he transgressed the covenant of the Lord and brought lawlessness in Israel.’ ”

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

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

After this, Joshua took Achan the son of Zerah and led him up to the Valley of Achor, along with his sons and daughters, and his calves, and all his donkeys and sheep, and his tent and all his belongings. Thus he led them all to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said to Achan, “Why did you destroy us? May the Lord destroy you this very day.” Then all Israel stoned him with stones; and they put over him a great heap of stones, and the Lord ceased from the wrath of his anger. Therefore and to this day, the place is named the Valley of Achor.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:54-59

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

Jesus also said to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising from the west, you immediately say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and so it happens. When a south wind blows, you say, ‘There will be a scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky, but how is it that you do not interpret this [present] time? Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? For when you are going with your adversary before the magistrate, as you are on the way, do your utmost to be released from him, for fear that perhaps he will drag you to the judge, and the judge might deliver you to the officer, and the officer might throw you into prison. I tell you, you will by no means get out of there, until you have paid the very last penny.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:1-8

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

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-12

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

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

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

and in whose mouth there is no deceit.

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

Alleluia.

##### John 8:31-39

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

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

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

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin! A slave does not live in the house forever, [but] a son remains forever. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed! I know that you are Abraham’s seed, yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I say the things which I have seen with my Father; and you also do the things which you have seen with your father.”

They answered him, “Our father is Abraham!”

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 4:19b-6:13

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

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

Thus it came to pass on the way, at the inn, that the Angel of the Lord met him and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son, and fell at His feet and said, “The flow of blood from my son’s circumcision is stopped.” So He departed from him, because she said, “The flow of blood from my son’s circumcision is stopped.” Now the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the desert to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and they kissed one another. Then Moses reported to Aaron all the words of the Lord which He sent to him, and all the signs which He commanded him. Thus Moses and Aaron went and gathered together the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron then spoke all the words the Lord spoke to Moses, and he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed and rejoiced because God had visited the children of Israel and because He had seen their affliction. Then the people bowed and worshiped.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God also spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their God, but I did not reveal to them My name, Lord. I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of the Canaanites, the land of their sojourn, in which they were strangers. I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the Egyptian tyranny; I will rescue you from their bondage and redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments. I will take you as My people and be your God. Then you shall know I am the Lord your God who brought you out from under the Egyptian tyranny. I will also bring you into the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.’ ” So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they paid no heed to Moses because of their faintheartedness and cruel bondage.

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:21-26

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

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 9:8-10:4

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

All the people will know—Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—who say in pride and arrogance of heart, “The bricks fell, but let us hew stones; and let us cut down sycamores and cedars, and we shall build ourselves a tower.” But God shall overthrow those who rise up against them on Mt. Zion, and scatter their enemies: the Syrians from the rising of the sun, the Greeks from the setting of the sun, and those who shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. But the people did not turn until they were struck, yet they did not seek the Lord. So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel, great and small, in one day. The elder and those who admire persons, this is the head. The prophet who teaches lawlessness, this is the tail. For those who bless this people lead them astray, and they lead them astray so as to destroy them. Therefore God will have no joy in their young men, nor mercy on their orphans and widows. For all of them are lawless and evil. Every mouth speaks injustices. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. For lawlessness burns like fire, and like dry grass, it shall be consumed by fire and burn in the thickets of the forest. It shall devour all the hills round about. Because of the Lord’s wrath the entire land is burned up, and the people are as fuel for the fire. No man will have mercy on his brother. But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand and not be satisfied. Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh. Together they shall besiege Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 12, 13, 14

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

Then Job answered and said:

“Moreover you are men.

Surely wisdom will die with you?

But I also have a heart as well as you.

“A righteous and blameless man

Has become an object of mockery.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

Under the power of others at the appointed time,

And his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

Let not, however, any one be persuaded

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

Let not those who provoke the Lord

Be persuaded there will be no trial for them.

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

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

Tell the earth if it may interpret it to you,

And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among all these does not know

The hand of the Lord created them,

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

And the breath of every man?

For indeed, the ear discerns words,

And the palate tastes wheat.

In length of time is wisdom,

And in long life, knowledge.

“With Him are wisdom and power;

With Him are counsel and understanding.

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

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

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

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

With Him are might and strength.

He has knowledge and understanding.

He leads counselors away captive

And makes fools of judges.

He sets kings upon thrones

And binds their waist with a belt.

He sends priests away into captivity

And overthrows the mighty of the earth.

He changes the lips of the faithful

And knows the understanding of elders.

He pours dishonor on rulers

And heals the humble.

He uncovers deep things out of darkness

And has brought into light the shadow of death.

He leads the nations astray and destroys them.

He overthrows the nations and leads them away.

He changes the hearts of rulers

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

May they grope in darkness,

And may they go astray like a drunken man.

“Behold, my eye has seen all these things,

And my ear has heard them.

What you know, I also know;

I am not of lesser understanding than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the Lord

And will reason before Him if He wills.

For you are all dishonest physicians and healers of diseases.

But would that you were silent,

For it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the conviction of my mouth

And heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord

And utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

But you yourselves be judges.

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

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

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

Will not His terror make you dizzy

And His fear fall upon you?

In the end, your insolence will go away like ashes

And your body like clay.

“Be silent, that I may speak

And put my anger to rest,

So I may take my flesh in my teeth

And put my life in my hand.

Though the Mighty One should lay His hand upon me,

And already He has begun,

I will speak and reason before Him.

This will turn for me into salvation,

For there shall be no deceit before Him.

Listen, listen to my words,

For I will report them in your hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:

I know I shall appear righteous.

Who is he who will judge me,

That I should now be silent and be wanting?

“Grant me two things,

Then I will not hide my face from You:

Withdraw Your hand far from me,

And let not the fear of You terrify me.

Then You will call, and I will obey You;

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

How many are my sins and transgressions?

Teach me what they are.

Why do You hide Yourself from me

And regard me as Your enemy?

Will You take heed of me as a leaf shaken by the wind?

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

For You wrote evil things against me

And compassed me with the sins of my youth.

You have put my foot in the stocks,

Have watched all my works,

And have penetrated into the roots of my feet,

Which have become old like a wineskin

Or like a moth-eaten garment.

“For mortal man born of woman

Is short-lived and full of wrath.

He falls like a flower that blooms,

And like a shadow, he does not continue.

Have You not taken account of him

And brought him to judgment before You?

For who shall be pure from uncleanness? No one.

Even if his life is but one day upon the earth,

His months are numbered by You.

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

Depart from him that he may rest,

And let him be pleased with his life as a hired laborer.

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

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

For though its root may grow old in the earth

And its stump may die in the rocky ground,

Yet at the scent of water it will bud

And bring forth a crop like one newly planted.

But a man who dies is utterly gone,

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

For in time the sea is drawn down,

And a river stops flowing,

And the river bed dries up.

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

For the dead will not awake until heaven is dissolved.

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

That You had hidden me until Your wrath ceases,

And that You would appoint me a set time

In which You would remember me.

For will man live again

After he completes his course of life and dies?

I will wait until I arise.

Then You will call, and I will answer You,

But do not cast away the works of Your hands.

For You have numbered my practices,

And not one of my sins will escape You.

You sealed up my lawlessness in a bag

And marked if I transgressed unwillingly.

“Truly a mountain falls and crumbles in pieces;

And a rock wears out in its place.

Waters wear away stones,

And overflowing torrents wash away the soil of the earth;

And You destroy the duration of man.

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

You set your face against him and send him away.

If his children multiply themselves, he does not know it,

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

But the muscles of his body feel pain,

And his soul grieves.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 26:4abcd

A Psalm of David.

One thing I ask of the Lord,

and seek after,

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:18-22

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:9-17

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

The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 2:9-15

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

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to hold the wicked for their punishment on the day of judgment, especially those follow the desires of their corrupt human nature and have no respect for [angelic] authority. Daring and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of the glorious ones, whereas angels, although greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. But these people act as creatures without reason, as natural animals [that are meant] to be taken and destroyed. They speak evil in matters about which they are ignorant and in their attempt to destroy they will surely be destroyed, receiving the wages of unrighteousness. These are people who consider it pleasurable to revel in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, amusing themselves in their deceit while they feast with you. Their eyes are full of adultery and they cannot break away from sin. They entice unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed and they are children of cursing. Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray by following the path of Balaam the son of Beor who loved being paid for doing evil.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:7-11

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

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

Three months later, we set sail.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 26:7, 8a

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;

have mercy on me and hear me,

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

In reply, Jesus said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 18:17-19:29\*

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

Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them.”

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Then the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.” So Abraham answered and said, “Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: But suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?” He replied, “If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.” Again he spoke to Him and said, “But suppose there should be forty found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of forty.” Then he said, “Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it if I should find thirty there.” Again he said, “Since I have permission to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of twenty.” Then he said, “Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten should be found there?” So He said, “I would not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

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

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. So when he saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed with his face toward the ground. Then he said, “Behold, my lords, turn in to your servant’s house and rest and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” But they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.” But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

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

But they said, “Stand back! You came in to sojourn among us. Was it also to be making judgments? Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands, pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, and they became weary trying to find the door.

Now the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here in the city: sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone? —then take them out of this place! 1or we will destroy this place, because their outcry has become great before the Lord, and the Lord sent us to destroy it.” So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord is about to wipe out this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

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

So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, they said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be overtaken.” Then Lot said to them, “I pray, O Lord, since Your servant found mercy in Your sight, and You magnified Your righteousness which You showed me by saving my life, nevertheless, I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city, which is small, is near enough to flee to for refuge, and I shall escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.” And He said to him, “See, I have acquiesced to you on this matter also, in that I will not overthrow this city, concerning which you have spoken. Therefore, hurry to escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” For this reason he called the name of that city Zoar.

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

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

My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel,

Nor forsake the teaching of your youth

And forget the divine covenant;

For it establishes its house with death,

And its paths beside Hades with the dead;

All who journey there do not return,

Nor do they lay hold of straight paths;

For they do not comprehend the years of life.

For if they walked in good paths,

They would find the smooth paths of righteousness.

The inhabitants of the land will be good,

And the simple will be left in it;

For the upright will dwell in the land,

And the holy will be left in it.

The ways of the ungodly shall perish from the land,

And the lawless shall be banished from it.

My son, do not forget my laws,

But let your heart keep my words;

For length of days, and years of life and peace

They will add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you,

But hang them upon your neck;

And you will find grace

And provide good things before the Lord and men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 11:10-12:2

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

“It shall come to pass in that day that there shall be a Root of Jesse who shall arise to rule nations. The Gentiles shall hope in Him, and His resting place shall be honorable.” It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will show His hand again to be zealous for the remnant left of His people: left by the Assyrians and by Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia, and by the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia. He shall set up a sign for the Gentiles and will assemble the lost ones of Israel. He shall gather together the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the enemies of Judah shall be destroyed. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim. But they shall spread sails on the ships of foreigners, and together they shall plunder the sea and the people of the East and Edom. They shall lay their hands first on Moab, but the sons of Ammon shall obey them first. The Lord shall make desolate the Sea of Egypt, and He will lay His hand on the river with a violent wind, and will strike the seven channels, that men might pass across it in sandals. “There shall be a highway for the remnant of My people in Egypt, and it will be for Israel as in the day he came out of the land of Egypt.”

And in that day, you will say, “I will bless You, O Lord. Although You were angry with me, You turned away Your anger and had mercy on me. Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 9:12, 13a

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,

for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:20-26

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

They watched him and sent out spies who pretended to be righteous in order to trap him in something he said, in order to deliver him up to the power and authority of the governor. They asked him, “Teacher, we know that you say and teach what is right, and that you are not partial to anyone but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

But Jesus perceived their trickery and said to them, “Why are you testing me? Show me a denarius! Whose image and inscription are on it?”

They answered, “Caesar’s.”

So Jesus said to them, “Then, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and [give] to God what belongs to God!”

And they were not able to ensnare him in his words before the people. They marveled at his answer and remained silent. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:6-11

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

Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:1-10

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

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The spirit which dwells in us longs to envy”? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:1-6

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 9:8, 9a

A Psalm of David.

But the Lord continues forever;

He has prepared His throne for judgment.

He will judge the world in righteousness.

Alleluia.

##### John 12:44-50

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

Jesus cried aloud, “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me! Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the dark. If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I do not judge this person. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world! Whoever rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge [already]: the word that I spoke is what will judge such a person in the last day. For I did not speak from myself; instead, the Father who sent me has given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11

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

Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

“Thus I prayed before the Lord; forty days and forty nights I kept praying, because the Lord said He would destroy you. Therefore, I prayed to God, and said, ‘O Lord, O Lord, O King of the gods, do not destroy Your people and Your portion You redeemed through Your great strength, whom You brought from the land of Egypt with Your great strength, Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself; do not look on the hardness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sins, lest those who inhabit the land You brought us from should say, “Because the Lord was unable to bring them to the land He promised them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the desert.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and outstretched arm.’

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on these tablets the words of the first tablets you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’ So I made an ark of wood not liable to decay, and hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, with the two tablets in my hands. Then He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets according to the first writing which the Lord spoke to you in the mountain, from the midst of the fire; and the Lord gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I made; and they were there, as the Lord commanded me.”

(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead. From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with rivers of water. At that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to minister to Him, and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, as He said to him.) “I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the Lord also heard me at that time, and the Lord chose not to destroy you. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go, and lead this people, so they may go in and inherit the land I swore to their fathers to give them.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 23:25-24:23 1 Samuel 23:26-24:22

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

Then Saul and his men went on one side of this mountain, and David and his men on the other side of this mountain. And David was hiding himself to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hasten and come here quickly, for the Philistines have invaded the land!” Therefore Saul turned back from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “David is in the desert of En Gedi.” Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaiem. On the way, he came across a flock of sheep, and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. And David’s men said to him, “Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective.” So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Then it happened that David’s heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. And David said to his men, “The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul.

So Saul got up from the cave and went his way. After Saul departed, David went out from the cave and cried out to Saul, saying, “My lord, O king!” And Saul looked back, and David, bowing to the ground, prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your life’? Take notice! This day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave; but I would not kill you. I spared you and said, ‘I will not put my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ Here in my hand is the corner of your robe! I cut off the corner, but did not kill you. See and know today, there is no evil or impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me from you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the ancient proverb says, ‘Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.’ Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand.”

And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Truly this is your voice, O son David.” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you repaid me with good, but I repaid you with evil. Today you make known how you dealt well with me, how when the Lord delivered me into your hand today, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy in distress and yet in a good way sends him out, the Lord will reward him with good, just as you did today. And now behold, I know that you shall be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hands. Therefore by the Lord, swear now to me that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.” So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 13:2-13

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

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. “I will command evils for all the inhabited world and the ungodly because of their sins, and I will destroy the insolence of the lawless and humble the haughtiness of the arrogant. Those left behind will be more valuable than fine gold tried in the fire, and a man more precious than the stone of Ophir. For heaven will be angry, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day His anger comes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 15:1-35

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Will a wise man give as an answer a breath of understanding,

And does he satisfy the pain in his belly,

Arguing with sayings which are not necessary

And with words wherein is no profit?

Have you not moreover cast off fear

And accomplished such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

Nor have you discerned the words of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and not I;

For your lips will testify against you.

“What? Are you the first man who was born?

Or were you made before the beaches?

Have you heard the doctrine of the Lord,

And has wisdom come only to you?

What do you know that we do not?

What do you understand that we do not also?

Both the aged and the very old are among us,

Much older than your father.

You have been punished for only a few of your sins;

You have spoken haughtily and exceedingly.

Why has your heart dared,

Or what are your eyes set on,

That you have vented your anger before the Lord

And brought forth such words from your mouth?

“For who is the mortal that shall be blameless,

Or who is born of a woman that shall be righteous,

Since He does not trust His saints

And heaven is not pure in His sight?

Alas then, detestable and unclean is a man

Who drinks wrongdoings like water!

“But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now seen,

What wise men say.

They did not hide anything received from their fathers.

To them alone the earth was given,

And no stranger came among them.

All the life of an ungodly man is spent in anxiety,

And the years granted an oppressor are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

And when he at last seems to be at peace,

His destruction comes.

Let him not believe he will return from darkness,

For he has already been given over to the power of the sword.

He has been appointed to be food for vultures,

And he knows in himself that he lives in a dead body;

And a dark day will carry him away like a whirlwind.

Trouble and anguish will come upon him,

And like a general he will fall in the first rank.

For he lifted his hands against the Lord

And acted defiantly against the Almighty Lord.

He ran in His sight with insolence,

With the thickness of his wide shield.

“For he covered his face with his fat

And put a collar upon his thighs.

May he lodge in deserted cities

And enter uninhabited houses;

And what they prepared, others will carry away.

Let him not grow rich, nor let his possessions remain;

Let him not cast a shadow upon the earth,

Neither let him escape the darkness.

Let the wind wither his blossom, and let his flower fall off.

Let him not believe he will endure,

For futility will be his reward.

His harvest will perish before its gathering,

And his branch will not flourish.

May he be gathered prematurely like unripe grapes,

And may he fall off like the blossom of an olive tree.

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

And fire will burn the houses of those who take bribes.

So he will conceive sorrows, his end will be vain,

And his belly shall bear deceit.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 2:1-3:4

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy. (\*)

Consider the ancient generations and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken?

Or who called upon Him and was overlooked?

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands,

And to a sinner who walks on two paths!

Woe to a fainting heart, because it does not believe!

Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

And those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

And those who love Him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts

And will humble their souls before Him.

We will fall into the hands of the Lord

And not into the hands of men;

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Give heed to me, O children, for I am your father,

And do what I tell you, that you may be saved.

For the Lord honored the father over the children

And strengthened the judgment of the mother over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for his sins;

And he who honors his mother

Is like one who stores up treasure.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

(\*) Some books end the reading here.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 15:10, 11a

A Psalm of David.

For You will not leave my soul in Hades,

nor allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

You made the ways of life known to me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:27-38

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

Some of the Sadducees came to him, people who deny that there is a resurrection. They asked him, “Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man dies having a wife and without a child, his brother should take the wife and raise up a posterity for his brother. There were therefore seven brothers: the first took a wife and died childless. The second took her as wife, and he [also] died childless. The third took her, and likewise all seven [brothers] left no children and died. Afterwards, the woman also died. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife.”

Jesus replied to them, “The children of this age get married and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead do not marry or are given in marriage. For they cannot die any more, because they are like the angels, and they are children of God, being children of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the [story of the burning] bush, when he called the Lord ‘The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Now, he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all are alive to him!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-8

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 17-25

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

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:6-11

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

But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 15:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Keep me, O Lord, for I hope in You.

I said to the Lord, “You are my God;

You have no need of my goods.”

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:14-26

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

Jesus was casting out a demon which was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the people were amazed. But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!” Others put him to the test and asked from him a sign from heaven. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. A house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul! But if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

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

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

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding no rest, the unclean spirit says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came out.’ When he returns, he finds it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 129:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I cry to You, O Lord, out of the depths;

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplication!

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:17-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 7:2-11

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

Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:14-26

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

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:12-35

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

When day came, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty people who joined this conspiracy. They came to the chief priests and the presbyters, and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to eat nothing until we

have killed Paul. Now then, you with the Sanhedrin should petition the commanding officer to bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to judge his case more exactly. We are ready to kill him before he comes near!”

But Paul’s nephew heard of their ambush. He came and entered into the fortress and told Paul. Calling one of the centurions, Paul said, “Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him.”

Accordingly, the centurion took Paul’s nephew and brought him to the commanding officer, saying, “Paul, the prisoner, called me and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you.”

The commanding officer took Paul’s nephew by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?”

He replied, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though intending to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him. But to not give in to their request, for more than forty men lie in wait for Paul, and they have bound themselves under a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for you to grant their request.”

And so, the commanding officer let the young man go with this instruction, “Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me.” He called to himself two of the centurions, and said, “Prepare two hundred soldiers to leave at the third hour of the night for Caesarea, along with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears.” He asked them to provide animals in order set Paul on one, and to bring him safely to Felix the governor. He wrote a letter like this:

*“Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings!*

This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman [citizen]. Desiring to know why they accused him, I brought him to their council. I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but not to be charged with anything worthy of death or imprisonment. When I was told that the Jews were about to ambush this man, I immediately sent him to you. I also instructed his accusers to bring their accusations against him before you. Farewell.”

And so, the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. But on the next day, they left the horsemen to continue with him and returned to the barracks. When they arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and also presented Paul to him. After reading the letter, the governor asked what province Paul was from. Having learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, “I will hear you fully when your accusers also arrive.” He then commanded that Paul should be held in Herod’s palace.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 26:6d, 7, 8a

A Psalm of David.

I will sing and praise the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;

have mercy on me and hear me,

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 18:23-35

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

Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle his accounts with his servants. When he began the settlement, someone was brought who owed him ten thousand talents. But because the servant could not pay, his lord gave orders that he be sold, with his wife, children, and all that he had, so that payment may be made. At this, the servant fell down on his knees before him, saying: ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will repay you all!’ The lord of that servant, moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and took him by the throat, saying: ‘Pay me what you owe!’

And so, his fellow-servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying: ‘Have patience with me, and I will repay you!’ But the first man would not [have compassion] but went off and had him cast into prison, until he should pay back what was due. When his [other] fellow-servants saw what had been done, they were extremely distressed and came to their lord to report all that had taken place. Then, his lord summoned the [first] servant and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should not you also have had mercy on your fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on you?’ His lord was angry and delivered him to the jailers until he would pay all that was due. This is how my heavenly Father will also treat you if you do not each forgive each other from your hearts.” Glory be to God forever.

## The Third Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 87:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, God of my salvation,

I cry before You day and nigh.

Let my prayer come before You;

incline Your ear to my supplication.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:1-20

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

Pharisees and scribes then came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying: “Why do your disciples disobey the tradition of the presbyters? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

Jesus answered them, “Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever may tell his father or his mother, “Whatever support you might otherwise have received from me is now a gift devoted to God,” is not bound to honor his father or mother.’ Thus, you have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaias prophesied about you quite well when he said:

*‘These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. And in vain dot heyworship me,*

*teaching as doctrine rules made by men.’*

Jesus gathered the crowds and said to them, “Hear, and understand. What enters into the mouth does not defile a person, but what comes out of the mouth, this is what defiles a person.”

Then, the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

But Jesus answered, “Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone! They are blind guides of the blind; and if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.”

And so, Jesus answered, “Do you still fail to understand? Do not you understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the belly and then out of the body? But the things which come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile the person. Indeed, it is from the heart that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies come forth. These are the things which defile a person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not make anyone impure.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 17

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

But I cried to God,

and the Lord heard me.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 20:1-16

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

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household and who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a [salary of one] denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [Later], he went out when it was about the third hour and saw other men standing idle in the marketplace. He told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ And so, they went their way. Again, he went out when it was about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour, he went out and still found others standing idle. He told them, ‘Why do you stand here all day, doing nothing?’

They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us!’

The master told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.’ When evening came, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.’

When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. Now, when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more, but they each likewise received one denarius. When they received it, they grumbled against the master of the household, saying: ‘These last [workers] have spent one hour, and yet you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

But the master answered to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for one denarius? Take what is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last one just as much as to you! Is not it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?’ And so, the last will be first, and the first last! Indeed, many are called, but few are chosen.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 6:2-13

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

For he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:1-23

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

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true. When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 78:8, 9a, half of b

A Psalm of David.

Do not remember our transgressions of old;

let Your compassion overtake us quickly,

for we have become very poor.

Help us, O God, our Saviour;

…for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 15:11-32

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

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.’ And the father divided his livelihood between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.”’

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. Then the son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Now, his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.’ But the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him. But he answered his father, ‘Behold, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. But you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’

The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!’” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 29:2, 3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

I will exalt You, O Lord,

for You upheld me,

and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, my God, I cried to You,

and You have healed me.

O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Hades.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:28-32

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

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which one of the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 27:1-41a

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

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. Then make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son; and Esau went to the field to hunt game for his father. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, “Indeed, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.’ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the sheep and bring me from there two kids, choice and good, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it and bless you before his death.”

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.” But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.” So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. She also put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the exposed part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob.

Thus he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it you have found it so quickly, my son?” He said, “Because the Lord your God brought it to me.” Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are my son Esau or not.” So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s.” Thus he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, “Are you my son Esau?” He said, “I am.”

He said, “Bring your game to me, my son, and I will eat from it, that my soul may bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing.

Thus he blessed him and said:

“Surely, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field the Lord has blessed.

Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven

And of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brethren,

And let your mother’s sons bow down to you.

And cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

Now it happened, as soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob his son, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed, he shall be blessed.” When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!” But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.” Then Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing.” So he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?” Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth,

And of the dew of heaven from above.

By your sword you shall live,

And you shall serve your brother;

And it shall come to pass, when you become restless,

That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Thus Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 14:24-32

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

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I said, so it shall come to pass. As I purposed, so it shall remain—to destroy the Assyrians in My land and on My mountains. They shall be for trampling underfoot, and their yoke shall be taken away; and their renown shall be removed from their shoulders.” This is the purpose the Lord purposed upon all the inhabited world. His hand is lifted up over all the nations of the inhabited earth. For who will reject what the holy God purposed? Who will turn away His uplifted hand?

In the year King Ahaz died, this word came: “Do not be glad, all you foreigners, for the yoke of him who struck you is broken to pieces. For from the seed of serpents shall come forth the young asps, and their offspring shall be flying serpents. The poor will be fed by him, and poor men will rest in peace, but he shall destroy your seed with hunger, and he will destroy your remnant. Wail, gates of the cities, cry out, troubled cities, even all the foreigners, for smoke is coming from the north, and you will be no more!” What will the kings of the nations answer? For the Lord founded Zion, and the humble of His people shall be saved.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 16, 17

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

Then Job answered and said:

“I have heard many such things;

You are all bad comforters.

What order is there in words of wind?

Or what troubles you, that you answer thus?

I also could speak as you do,

If indeed your soul were in my soul’s place.

Then I would attack you with words

And shake my head at you.

But would there were strength in my mouth:

Then I would not spare the movement of my lips.

“If I should speak, I would feel the pain of my wound,

But if I also should be silent, how would I be less wounded?

But now He has made me weary and a worn-out fool,

And you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testimony.

It rises up and argues against me to my face.

He vented His wrath and struck me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

The arrows of the raiders fell on me.

He attacked me with the sharp darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek;

With one accord they ran me down.

For the Lord delivered me into the hands of an unjust man

And cast me upon the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He rejected me.

He took me by the hair of my head and pulled it out.

He set me up as a mark.

They surrounded me with spears aimed at my mind.

Without sparing me, they poured out my gall on the ground.

Running at me with all their strength,

They knocked me down, head over heels.

I sewed sackcloth on my skin,

And my strength is spent on the ground.

My belly is on fire because of weeping,

And shade is on my eyelids.

Yet there was no wrongdoing in my hands,

And my prayer is pure.

O earth, do not cover the blood of my flesh,

Nor may my cry have a place.

Now behold, my witness is in the heavens,

And the One who knows me thoroughly is on high.

May my supplication come before the Lord,

And may my eyes pour out tears in His presence.

May there be rebuttal for a man before the Lord,

As a son of man with his neighbor.

For my years are numbered,

And I shall go the way of no return.

“I am perishing, carried away by the wind;

And I ask for a burial-place, but cannot obtain it.

I am tired of entreating, yet what have I done?

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is he? Let him join hands with me.

For You hid their heart from discernment;

Therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will declare evils as their portion,

But my eyes melt away because of my children.

“But You made me a byword among the people,

And I have become an object of laughter to them.

For my eyes are petrified because of Your wrath,

And I am greatly besieged by everyone.

Amazement seizes true men because of this,

And the righteous man rises against the lawless man.

May the faithful man hold to his way,

And may those who have clean hands take courage.

“Nevertheless, all of you stick together,

And indeed come, for I did not find you to be true.

My days have passed in groaning

And my heartstrings are broken.

Light turned night into day.

It is near at the appearance of darkness.

If I tarry, Hades is my home,

And my bed is spread in darkness.

I called upon death to be my father

And decay to be my mother and my sister.

Where then is my hope,

Or where shall I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

Or shall we go down together in the tomb?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 26:7b, 8a

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

Have mercy on me and hear me

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:7-15

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

When Jesus noticed how people chose the best seats, he told the guest a parable, saying, “When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit in the best seat. It could be that someone more honorable than you might have been invited by the host, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, ‘Make room for this person.’ Then, with shame, you would proceed to take the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. And so, when the host comes, he may tell you, ‘Friend, move up higher!’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Jesus also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen or rich neighbors because they might return the favor and pay you back. Instead, when you give a feast, ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind [to come]. Then, you will be blessed, because they do not have the means to pay you back. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will feast in the Kingdom of God!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:12-26

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

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit ofadoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:16-20

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

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2-18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!” But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 54:17, 18bc

A Psalm of David.

I cried to God,

and the Lord heard me.

I will declare,

and He will hear my voice.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:1-9

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

Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.’

The manager said within himself, ‘What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ Calling each one of his lord’s debtors to him, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe to my lord?’ The man replied, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty.’ Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ That one said, ‘A hundred cors of wheat.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 28:10-22

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

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God’s house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 25:1-26:9a

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

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation.” For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

1In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: “Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 18:1-21

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“How long will you keep talking?

Pay close attention so we may also speak.

Why have we been silent before you

Like four-footed animals?

Wrath possesses you. Suppose you die;

Would the earth under heaven be uninhabited,

Or the mountains be overturned from their foundations?

“The light of the ungodly will go out,

And their flame will not go up.

His light shall be dark in his dwelling,

And his lamp beside him shall be put out.

May the least of men pounce on his goods,

And let his counsel stumble him.

For his foot has been caught in a snare,

And he is entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him.

He shall strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

A snare is hidden in the ground for him,

And a capture awaits him on the beaten paths.

May sorrows destroy him on every side;

And may many enemies come about him

And plague him with severe hunger,

For a destruction out of the ordinary is prepared for him.

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

For death will consume his beauty.

May health be banished from his dwelling,

And may distress seize him because of a royal decree.

It shall dwell in his tent at night,

And his goodly appearance shall be sown with brimstone.

His roots shall be dried out from below,

And his crop shall be trampled from above.

His memory shall perish from the earth,

And his name shall be remembered no more.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He shall not be known among his people,

Nor his house preserved on the earth;

But others shall live among his possessions.

The last groaned for him, and wonder seized the first.

These are the dwellings of wrongdoers,

And this is the place of those who do not know the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 8:1-10:1

From the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not contend sharply with a powerful man,

Lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

Lest he resist your force,

For gold has destroyed many

And perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend sharply with a talkative man,

And do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with an uncultivated man,

Lest your forefathers be insulted.

Do not insult a man who turns away from sin;

Remember that we are all valuable.

Do not dishonor a man in his old age,

For some of us are growing old as well.

Do not rejoice over any dead person;

Remember that we all must die.

Do not disregard a saying of the wise,

But be conversant with their proverbs;

Because from them you will gain instruction

And how to serve noble people.

Do not miss a saying of the old,

For they themselves learned from their fathers;

Because from them you will gain understanding

And be able to give an answer in time of need.

Do not kindle the coals of a sinner,

For you may be burned by his flame.

Do not let the presence of an insolent man

Arouse you from your seat,

Lest he lie in wait as an ambush against your words.

Do not lend to a man stronger than you;

But if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety beyond your ability to pay;

But if you do give surety, be as careful as one who has to pay.

Do not go to law against a judge,

For they will decide for him because of his reputation.

Do not travel on a journey with a reckless man,

Lest he weigh you down;

For he will do his will,

And you will perish with him in his folly.

Do not cause a fight with an angry man,

And do not go into a lonely place with him,

Because murder is as nothing in his eyes,

And where there is no help, he will strike you down.

Do not consult with a fool,

For he will not keep a matter confidential.

Do nothing confidential in the presence of a stranger,

For you do not know what he will give birth to.

Do not open your heart to everyone,

Lest unkindness be shown to you.

Do not be jealous of the wife of your bosom

And so teach her an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

To let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a woman who is a courtesan,

Lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

Lest you be caught in her schemes.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

Lest you stumble and pay damages for her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look around in the streets of a city,

And do not wander about in its deserted sections.

Turn your eye away from a woman with a shapely figure,

And do not gaze at beauty belonging to another.

Many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman,

And erotic love is like a burning fire.

Never dine with another man’s wife,

And do not share in parties with her over wine,

Lest your soul turn aside to her,

And you slip and with your spirit fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

For a new one is not equal with him.

A new friend is like new wine;

Drink it with pleasure only after it ages.

Do not envy the honor given a sinner,

For you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly;

Remember, they will not be declared righteous even in Hades.

Keep far away from a man who has the power to kill,

And you will not be anxious about the fear of death.

But if you come near him, do not offend him,

Lest he take away your life.

Know that you are stepping in the midst of snares

And walking about the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbors as best you can

And consult with those who are wise.

Let your reasoning be with those who are wise,

And let all your talk be about the law of the Most High.

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

And let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord.

A work will be praised for the skill of its craftsmen,

And a wise leader of people for the skill of his words.

A talkative man is regarded with fear in his city,

And a man who is reckless in his speech will be hated.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1

A Psalm of David.

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

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

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:28-32

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

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which one of the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-16

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

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 2:2-8

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

Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:1-3

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

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 16:6

A Psalm of David.

I cried out, O God, and You heard me;

incline Your ear to me, and hear my words.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:57-62

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

As they went on the way, a certain man said to him, “I want to follow you wherever you go, Lord!”

Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He said to another, “Follow me!” But the man said, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.”

But Jesus replied, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But you go and announce the Kingdom of God.”

Another also said, “I want to follow you, Lord, but first allow me to say goodbye to those who are at my house!”

But Jesus said to him, “No one who has put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 7:14-8:15

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

So the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. Then you shall say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert”; but indeed, until now you would not hear. Thus says the Lord: “By this you shall know I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river.” ’ ” Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.’ ”

So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said. Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. The frogs shall come up on you, your people, and all your servants.” ’ ”

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers did the same with their sorceries and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, and let Him take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord.” Moses replied to Pharaoh, “Appoint me a time when I shall pray for you, for your servants, and for your people to make the frogs disappear from you, your people, and your houses. Only in the river will they remain.” So Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow.” Moses then said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know this is none other than the Lord. Now the frogs shall depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. Then they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.’ ” Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 3:1-5

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

“After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. And I shall give wonders in the heavens and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 1:1-22

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

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, “Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God.” Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, “Where did you come from?” So the devil answered the Lord and said, “I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven.” Then the Lord said to him, “Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?” So the devil answered and said before the Lord, “Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face.” Then the Lord said to the devil, “Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him.” Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job’s sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, “The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then raiders came and took them captive and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, “Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother, and suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped, saying, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

In all these things that happened, Job did not sin against the Lord or charge God with folly.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 26:21-27:9

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

For behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the inhabitants of the earth, and the earth will uncover its blood and will not cover its slain.

In that day, God will bring His holy, great, and strong sword upon the fleeing dragon serpent, the perverse dragon serpent that flees; and He shall destroy the dragon. In that day, there shall be a beautiful vineyard, and a desire to begin a hymn against a city: “I am a strong city, a besieged city; I water it in vain; for it shall be taken at night, and its wall shall fall by day. There is no woman who has not taken hold of it. Who will appoint me to guard straw in a field? I rejected it because of this enemy. For that very reason therefore, the Lord God did all the things He ordered. I am burned down.” Those who dwell in it will cry out, “Let us make peace with Him, let us make peace.” Those who come are the children of Jacob. Israel shall bud and put forth flowers, and the inhabited earth shall be filled with its fruit. As he struck, shall he not be thus struck? As he slew, shall he not be thus slain? Fighting and denouncing he shall send them away. Did you not think with a harsh spirit about killing them in a spirit of anger? Therefore the lawlessness of Jacob will be removed; and this is his blessing when I take away his sin, when they make all the stones of the altars beaten like fine dust. Their trees do not remain, and their idols shall be cut down like a distant forest.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 17:38, 41

A Psalm of David.

I will pursue my enemies and overtake them;

and I will not turn back until they fail.

And You have made my enemies to turn their backs to me,

and utterly destroyed those who hate me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:16-24

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

But Jesus replied, “A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. At supper time, he sent out his servant to tell those who were invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now!’ But they all began to make excuses.

The first told him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!’

Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!’

Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!’

That servant came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.’

The servant said, ‘Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!’

The lord then told the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled! For I tell you that none of those who were invited will taste of my supper.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:17-32

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

Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. They are darkened in their understanding, cut off from God’s life because of their ignorance and because of the hardening of their hearts. Having become hardened, such people gave themselves up to lust and they pursue what is impure with greed. But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God!

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:26b-12:2

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

So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 17:18, 19a

A Psalm of David.

He will deliver me from my powerful enemies,

and from those who hate me,

for they are too strong for me.

They overtook me in the day of my affliction.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:35-41

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

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

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

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

### Thursday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 32:2-30

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

So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is God’s encampment”; and he called the name of that place Encampments.

Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says, “I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight.” ’ ” Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him.” So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. Thus Jacob said, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape.”

Again Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,’ let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’ ”

So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, “Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves.” And he commanded the first one, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?’ Then you shall say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’ ” So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’ ” For he said to himself, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men.”

Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And he said, “Why do you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God: “For I saw God face to face, and my soul was saved.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 28:14-22

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

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, “We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected”; therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 20:1-29

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

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“I did not suppose you would answer in that way;

Nor do you understand more than I.

I will heed the discipline of my humiliation,

And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

“Have you not heard these things of old—

From the time man was put on the earth?

For the gladness of the ungodly is a disastrous fall,

And the joy of transgressors is destruction.

Though his gifts ascend to heaven

And his sacrifice touches the clouds,

Just when he already seems to be established,

Then he shall utterly perish;

And those who knew him will say, ‘Where is he?’

Like a dream he flew away and cannot be found;

And he fled like a vision of the night.

The eye observed him, but will see him no more;

Nor will his place any longer behold him.

May his children perish,

And may his vile hands kindle the fire of sorrows.

His bones were full of his youthful vigor,

Which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth,

And he will hide it under his tongue,

Though he will not spare it and will not forsake it,

But will hold it fast in the midst of his throat,

Yet he shall be unable to help himself,

For the gall of an asp is in his belly.

His wealth gathered unjustly shall be vomited up,

And a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he nurse on the anger of serpents;

And may a snake’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

Nor his supplies of honey and butter.

In vain he has labored unprofitably for wealth,

Of which he will not taste;

For it is like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he crushed the houses of many weak people.

He plundered their dwelling and caused it to cease.

“There is no salvation in his possessions,

For he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his good things will not flourish.

But when he at last seems to be satisfied, he will be distressed,

For every trouble will come upon him.

If he were to satisfy his stomach in some way,

Let God send the fury of wrath upon him,

And may He bathe him in sorrows.

He will not be saved from the power of the sword;

May a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pass through his body,

And may lightning strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that will not go out will consume him.

May a stranger ruin his house.

May heaven uncover his lawlessness,

And may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

And may a day of wrath come upon him.

This is the portion of an ungodly man from the Lord,

And the heritage appointed to him from the One who watches him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 6:2-28

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

It pleased Darius to set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so they might be throughout his entire kingdom. He also set three administrators above these, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, that the king might not be troubled. But Daniel excelled beyond them, because there was an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. The administrators and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel, but they could find no charge or wrongdoing or fault against him because he was faithful. Then the administrators said, “We will find nothing against Daniel unless we find it in the laws of his God.”

So the administrators and the governors stood before the king and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now therefore, O king, establish the decree and exhibit the writing publicly, so the decree of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed.” Then King Darius gave orders to write the decree.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree was posted, he entered his house, where the windows facing Jerusalem were open to him in the upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks to his God, as he was doing before. Then those men watched Daniel closely and found him praying and making supplication before his God. So they approached the king and said, “O king, did you not give orders that any man who petitioned anything from any god or man, except from you, he would be cast into the den of lions?” The king replied, saying, “The word is true, and the decree of the Medes and Persians shall not pass away.”

Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is from the captives of Judea, does not obey your order concerning the decree you commanded, for he prays and petitions his God three times a day.” Then when the king heard this word, he was very sad in himself, and he struggled hard to deliver Daniel, and did his best to deliver him until evening. Then those men said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute the king establishes can be altered.”

After that, the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” Then they brought a stone and placed it over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his ring and with the ring of his nobles, so the matter concerning Daniel might not be changed. The king then went to his house and spent the night without his evening meal; for they brought no meats to him, and his sleep departed from him. Now God shut the mouths of the lions, and they did not trouble Daniel.

Then the king arose early in the morning at daybreak and went in haste to the den of lions. As he approached the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they did not destroy me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and I did no wrongdoing in His sight.”

Then the king rejoiced greatly over him and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den; and no corruption was found in him, because he believed in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought the men who brought charges against Daniel; and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. They did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Now Darius the king wrote to all peoples, tribes, and languages who dwell in all the earth:

“May peace be multiplied to you.

“A decree was made in my presence, that in every dominion of my kingdom, men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, because He is the living God; He endures unto the ages. His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall continue to the end. He helps and rescues, and works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 11:8

A Psalm of David.

You, O Lord, will guard us,

and preserve us from this generation and forever.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 3:7-12

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

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, “You are the Son of God!” He sternly warned them that they should not make him known. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1

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

But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full- grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:11-5:3

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

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

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-31

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

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 47:11c, 12

A Psalm of David.

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:35-43

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

As he came near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant. People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He cried out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” Then, those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, ”What do you want me to do?”

The man replied, “Lord, that I may see again!” Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you.”

Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God. Glory be to God forever.

### Friday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

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

“So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His ordinances I command you today for your good? Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy-five souls, and now, the Lord your God made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

“Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, and always keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His judgments. Know today, I do not speak with your children, who have not known and seen the chastening of the Lord your God, nor His greatness and mighty hand and outstretched arm— the signs and wonders He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horse and chariots; how He made the water of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord destroyed them to this day; what He did for you in the desert until you came to this place; and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up in the midst of Israel, along with their households, tents, and all the substance in their possession—but your eyes saw all the great works the Lord did for you today.

“Therefore, you shall keep all His commandments I command you today, that you may live and increase and go in and inherit the land you are crossing the Jordan to inherit, and may prolong your days in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, to them and their seed after them, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ For the land you go to inherit is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land you are crossing over to inherit is a land of hills and plains, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land the Lord your God looks upon; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

“So if you earnestly obey all His commandments I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then He will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, wine, and olive oil. I will also send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be filled. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord’s anger be aroused against you and He shut up heaven, so there may be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land the Lord gave you.

“Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be immovable before your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates, that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, like days of heaven on earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments I command you today—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—then the Lord will cast out all these nations from before your face, and you will inherit greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the desert and Antilebanon, and from the great Euphrates River, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against your face; the Lord your God will put the dread and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, in the manner the Lord said to you.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but go astray from the way I command you today, to go after different gods you have not known.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 29:13-23

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

So the Lord said, “These people draw near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and hide the understanding of the intelligent.” Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us or what we do?” Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is molded of clay say to him who molded it, “You did not create me”? Or shall the work say to him who made it, “You did not make me wisely”? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, as well as those who cause men to sin in word. They shall make all who condemn at the gates an offense, because they turned aside the righteous man with wrongdoing. Therefore the Lord says this concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart out of Abraham: “Now Jacob shall not be ashamed, nor shall Israel now change his countenance. But when their children see My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 21:1-34

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

Then Job answered and said:

“Listen carefully to my words,

That I may not have this consolation from you.

Bear with me and I will speak;

Then you will stop laughing at me.

“What? Is there any one who does not blame me?

Or why should I not be furious?

Look at me and be astonished,

And put your hand over your mouth.

For even when I remember, I am alarmed,

And pains take hold of my flesh.

Why do the ungodly live and become old, even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to their desire,

And their children are before their eyes.

Their houses flourish, and they have no cause for fear;

Neither is there any affliction from the Lord upon them.

Their ox does not miscarry,

For it is preserved safe during pregnancy

And does not suffer a mishap.

They remain as an unfailing herd,

And their children dance,

Taking up the psaltery and harp;

And they celebrate at the sound of song.

They spend their life in their good things

And fall asleep in the rest of the grave.

Yet such a man says to the Lord,

‘Depart from me. I do not wish to know Your ways.

What is a sufficient reason for us to serve Him?

What benefit is it for us to meet Him?’

For their good things are in their power,

For He does not take notice of the works of the ungodly.

“Nevertheless, the lamp of the ungodly will be put out.

Destruction shall come upon them,

And the sorrows of wrath will seize them.

They are like chaff before the wind,

And they are like dust a storm carries away.

May his possessions fail to supply his children.

God will recompense him, and he will not know it.

May his eyes see his own slaughter,

And may he not be saved by the Lord.

For is his will not in his house with himself?

But the number of his months has been apportioned.

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

Does not He judge murders?

One shall die in the strength of his simplicity,

And wholly at ease and prosperous.

His innards are full of stiff fat,

And the marrow of his bones is dissipated.

Another dies under bitterness of soul,

Not eating any good thing.

They lie down together in the earth,

And decay covers them.

Thus I know you press me recklessly.

You will say, ‘where is the house of the ruler?

Where is the shelter of the dwelling place of the ungodly?’

Ask those who travel the road,

And do not overlook their signs.

For the evil man makes light of the day of destruction,

But they shall be led away in the day of His wrath.

Who will tell him his way to his face?

Who will recompense him for what he has done?

Yet he is brought to the grave,

And a vigil is kept over the coffin.

The pebbles of the valley have been sweet to him.

Every man shall depart after him,

As countless have departed before him.

How then can you comfort me with empty words,

Since I have no rest from you?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 14:2-42 (Bel and the Serpent 2-42)

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

Daniel was a confidant of the king and was honored above all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol whose name was Bel, and every day they spent on it twelve bushels of fine flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of wine. The king adored it and went every day to worship it; but Daniel worshiped his own God. So the king asked him, “Why do you not worship Bel?” Daniel answered, “Because I do not worship idols made with hands, but only the living God who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all flesh.” The king said to him, “Do you not think Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?” Daniel smiled and said, “Do not be deceived, O king, for it is but clay inside and bronze outside, and it has never eaten or drunk anything.”

Very angry, the king summoned his priests and said to them, “If you do not tell me who it is that consumes these provisions, you shall die. But if you can prove Bel consumes them, then Daniel shall die, because he blasphemed against Bel.” So Daniel said to the king, “Let it be according to your word.”

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple. Then the priests of Bel said, “Look, we will step outside. You, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, then shut the door and seal it with your signet. If you do not find Bel has eaten it all when you come tomorrow, we will suffer death—or else Daniel shall die, who speaks lies against us.” They were unconcerned, for under the table they had made a secret entrance through which they always came in to consume the provisions.

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food for Bel. And Daniel ordered his servants to bring in ashes, which they sprinkled throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door, sealed it with the king’s signet, and departed. During the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king rose early the next morning, and Daniel with him. Then the king said, “Are the seals intact, Daniel?” Daniel answered, “They are intact, O king.” As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table and cried out in a loud voice, “Great are you, O Bel, and with you there is no deceit at all.” Then Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. He said, “Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are.” The king replied, “I see the footprints of men, women, and children.” With great anger, the king seized the priests and their wives and children, and they showed him the hidden doors where they came in and consumed such things as were upon the table. Therefore the king put them to death and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

There was also a large serpent the people of Babylon worshiped. So the king said to Daniel, “Will you also say this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, he eats, and he drinks—you cannot say he is no living god. Therefore worship him.” Daniel replied, “I will worship the Lord my God; for He is the living God. But with your permission, O king, I shall slay this serpent without sword or staff.” The king said, “I will give my permission.” Then Daniel took pitch, tar, and hair; these he boiled together and made cakes, and put them in the mouth of the serpent. The serpent ate them and burst open. Then Daniel said, “Behold the things you have been worshiping.”

Now when the people of Babylon heard what had been done, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, “The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death.” Going to the king, they said, “Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house.” Now when the king saw they were pressing him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They threw Daniel into the lions’ den, where he was left for six days. Now there were seven lions in the den, and they had to give them two carcasses every day and two sheep. But these things were not given to them now, so they might devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the fields to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said unto Habakkuk, “Go, carry the dinner you have into Babylon to Daniel, who is in the lions’ den.” Habakkuk said, “O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, nor do I know the den.” Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. Habakkuk cried out, saying, “O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal God has sent you.” Daniel said, “You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You.” So Daniel arose and ate; and the angel of the Lord immediately set Habakkuk down in his own place once more.

After this, on the seventh day the king went to the lions’ den to mourn for Daniel, and he came to the pit and looked inside—and there sat Daniel. The king cried out with a loud voice, “Great are You, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides You.” Then he drew him out of the den, and cast in those who had plotted Daniel’s destruction; and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 27:6, 7a, half of b

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord, for He has heard

the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector;

my heart hopes in Him.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:31-37

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:7-16

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

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-16

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

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24a

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

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. \*[He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.]\*

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

\* [] lacking in Kitchener

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 27:2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, the cry of my supplication

when I pray to You,

when I lift up my hands

towards Your holy temple.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:21-31

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

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

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 141:6, 8ab

A Psalm of David.

I cried to You, O Lord,

I said, “You are my hope,

my portion in the land of the living.”

Bring my soul out of prison,

that I may confess Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.’

But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.’

He said, ‘I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father’s house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.’

But Abraham replied to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!’

But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

Then Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 4:4-9

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

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:24-25:12

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

A few days later, Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and granted him a hearing concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became alarmed and said, “Go your way for this time. When it is convenient for me, I will summon you [again].” Meanwhile, he also hoped that Paul would offer him money for his release. For this reason too, he sent for him more often and discussed with him. But after two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. Then the high priest and the leaders of the Jewish people presented to him an [accusatory] report against Paul. They begged him and asked for his support against Paul, asking that he would transfer the prisoner [back] to Jerusalem, plotting to kill him on the way. However, Festus replied that Paul would be kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself would leave shortly. He said, “Those who have authority among you should go down with me! And if the man has done anything wrong, let them accuse him.”

Having stayed among them more than ten days, Festus returned to Caesarea. The following day, he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. When Paul arrived, the Jews who had traveled from Jerusalem stood around him and hurled against him many grave accusations which they could not prove. Paul then said in his [own] defense, “I have not sinned in any way, against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against Caesar!”

Then, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Festus asked Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem in order to be judged by me there concerning these matters?”

But Paul replied, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. Now, if I have done wrong and committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die! But if none of those things they accuse me of are true, then no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

At this, and after conferring with his advisers, Festus answered, “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go!”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 60:2, 6bc

A Psalm of David.

Hear my supplication, O God;

attend to my prayer.

You give an inheritance

to those who fear Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?”

They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*‘The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?’*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people considered him to be a prophet. Glory be to God forever.

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 26:14, 13

A Psalm of David.

Wait on the Lord,

have courage, and let your heart be strong;

and wait on the Lord!

I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:22-31

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

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore, I tell you not to be anxious about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing! Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not have a warehouse or barn and [yet] God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Which one of you by worrying can add a single day to his life? If you are not able to accomplish even the smallest things, why then are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 30:25, 24ab

A Psalm of David.

Take courage and let your heart be strong,

all you who hope in the Lord.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,

for the Lord requires truth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 22:1-14

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

Jesus now addressed them with another parable, saying: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who planned a wedding feast for his son. He then sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. Again, the king sent out other servants, saying: ‘Tell those who are invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner! My cattle and my fatted calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!”’ But those who were invited made light of it and went off, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the others seized the king’s servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. When the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and to burn their city.

Then, the king said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the crossroads of the highways, and as many people as you may find, invite to the wedding feast.’

Those servants went out into the highways and gathered as many people as they could find, both good and bad. Thus, the wedding [hall] was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not wearing a wedding garment. He asked him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here, not wearing a wedding garment?’ And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.’ For many are called, but few chosen.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:10-24

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

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, even with unfading love. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:13-26:1a

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

A few days later, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and greeted Festus. Since Agrippa was spending some time there, Festus presented Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a certain man who was left as a prisoner by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the presbyters of the Jews presented an [accusatory] report about this man, asking me to condemn him. I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to condemn anyone to death before the accused has met his accusers face to face and has had opportunity to make his defense in the case against him. Then, since they had come together here, I did not delay. On the following day, I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in. When the accusers stood up, they did not bring any of the charges I was expecting. Instead, they had some dispute against him dealing with their own religion, and about a certain Jesus who was dead, and who Paul affirms to be alive. I was puzzled as how to investigate such things and asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. But Paul appealed that his case be reserved for the decision of the emperor, and so I gave orders that he be detained until I could send him to Caesar.”

Agrippa said to Festus, “I too would like to hear this man!”

“Tomorrow,” Festus replied, “you shall hear him.”

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy ofdeath, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 104:3b, 4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Seek the Lord and be strengthened;

continually seek His face.

Remember the wonders He has done,

His miracles and the judgments of His mouth.

Alleluia.

##### John 4:1-42

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

Then, when the Lord learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea and departed into Galilee. Now, he needed to pass through Samaria. And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me [something] to drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

The Samaritan woman then said to him, “How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Not only this, the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered, “I have no husband!”

Jesus replied, “You said well, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming,” (he who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then, his disciples arrived. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What are you looking for?” or, “Why do you speak with her?” Then, the woman left her water jar, went away into the city, and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I have done! Could this be the Christ?”

The people [then] went out of the city, and were coming to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, “Rabbi, eat!”

But he told them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

The disciples then said one to another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months until the harvest comes?’ Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields! They are already white for the harvest! [Already], he who reaps is receiving his wages and gathering fruit to eternal life; so that both the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together! For in this, the saying is true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into [the rewards of] their labor.”

Many of the Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who had testified, “He told me everything that I did!” For this reason, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. So, he stayed there two days, and many more believed because of his word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, but because we have heard for ourselves and [we] know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” Glory be to God forever.

### Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,

and glory, all you upright in heart.

Alleluia.

##### John 4:19-24

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

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 3:5-20a

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

Trust in God with all your heart,

And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,

That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

And nothing evil will withstand her;

She is well known to all who come near her,

And no honor is worthy of her.

For length of days and years of life are in her right hand,

And in her left hand are riches and glory;

Righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

And she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

And all her paths are in peace.

She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 37:33-38:6

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

Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way he came, by the same shall he return,’ says the Lord. ‘I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ ”

Then the Angel of the Lord went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, they discovered all the dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, then escaped into the land of Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ ” Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and did what is pleasing in Your sight.” So Hezekiah wept loudly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I heard your prayer, I see your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will protect this city.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 22:1-30

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

For what concern is it to the Lord

If you were blameless in your works?

Or what profit is it to Him to make plain your ways?

Will He argue with you while you plead your case?

Will He enter into judgment with you?

Is not your vice plentiful,

And are not your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges from your brethren for no reason

And taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

But have even withheld a morsel from the hungry.

You have also admired the personality of some

And have transplanted those already settled on earth.

You have sent widows away empty

And have mistreated orphans.

Therefore snares are all around you,

And a serious war has troubled you.

The light has turned to darkness for you,

And water has covered you as you fell asleep.

“Does not He who dwells on high take notice of all?

Does He not humble those who move about with insolence?

But you say, ‘What does the Mighty One know?

Will He judge down into the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding place, so He cannot see

As He travels through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep to the old path

Which wrongdoers have trod,

Who were seized before their time

And whose foundations were swept away by a flood;

Who said, ‘What will the Lord do to us?’

Or, ‘What will the Almighty bring upon us?’

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

But the counsel of the ungodly is far from Him.

“The righteous have seen it and laughed,

And the innocent mocked them.

Surely their substance has perished,

And fire will consume what is left.

Eliphaz Exhorts Job to Be Strong

“Be strong, therefore. If you endure,

Then your fruit shall be in good things.

Receive utterance from His mouth

And lay up His words in your heart.

If you return and humble yourself before the Lord,

You have caused wrongdoing to be far from your dwelling.

Then you will lay up treasure for yourself

Like a mound on a rock,

And you shall be like the gold of Ophir

On a rock in the brooks.

So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

And He will restore you as pure as silver purged by fire.

For then you will speak freely before the Lord,

Looking up cheerfully to heaven.

When you pray to Him, He will hear you,

And He will allow you to pay your vows.

He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,

And there shall be light on your paths.

You will say, ‘He behaved arrogantly, but he humbled himself,

And He will save him who bows down with his eyes.’

He will deliver the innocent,

And you will save yourself in the purity of your hands.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 87:3b, 4, 5a

A Psalm of David.

Incline Your ear to my supplication[, O Lord].

For my soul is full of troubles,

and my soul draws near to Hades;

I am counted among those who go down into the pit.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:16-21

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

Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, “The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. He thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!’ Then the man said, ‘This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. Then I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared - whose will they be?’ This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward God.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:1-16

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

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look after you own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And so, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, according to his good purpose. Do all things without murmurings and disputes in order to become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you are seen as lights in the world. Uphold the word of life, so that I may have a reason to glory in the day of Christ: that I did not run or labor in vain.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:10-18

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

For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:25-35

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

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

for I will cry to You all day long.

Gladden the soul of Your servant,

for I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:12-17

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

Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place.”

But Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” (For they were about five thousand men).

Jesus then said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” They did so, and made them all sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Everybody ate, and all were satisfied. The disciples gathered up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Numbers 10:34-11:35

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

Now it came to pass that when they broke camp with the ark, Moses said, “Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let all who hate You flee.”And when the ark rested, he said, “Return, O Lord, to the many thousands in Israel!” The cloud also overshadowed them by day when they broke camp.

Now the people were grumbling evilly before the Lord, and the Lord heard them and was provoked to anger. So the fire of the Lord burned among them and utterly destroyed part of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord; and the fire was quenched. So he called the name of the place Burning, because fire from the Lord burned among them.

Now the mixed multitude among them hungered exceedingly; and sitting down, the children of Israel were also weeping, and said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes except this manna.” Now the manna is like coriander seed, and its form is like the form of ice pellets. The people would go about and gather it, and grind it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, then cook it in pots, and make cakes of it; and its flavor was like the taste of a pastry prepared with oil and honey. And when the dew descended on the camp in the night, the manna descended upon it.

Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their tribes, everyone at his door; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You maltreated Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the wrath of this people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ I am not able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, kill me here and now—if I find mercy in Your sight—and do not let me see my maltreatment.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone. Then you shall say to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept before the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month you shall eat, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

Then Moses said, “The people I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You are saying, ‘I will give them meat, so they may eat for a whole month.’ Shall sheep and oxen be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Is the Lord’s hand unable to provide for them? Now you shall know whether or not My word will overtake you.” So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord descended in the cloud and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Lord Moses, forbid them.” Then Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.” So Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Now a wind went out from the Lord and brought birds from the sea that migrate together with quail, and cast them upon the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and about a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Then the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the birds (he who gathered least gathered ten cors); and they spread the meat out to dry for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the Lord’s anger was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place Graves of Lust, because there they buried the people who lusted. Then the people broke camp to go to Hazeroth, and they camped at Hazeroth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 3:21-4:8

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

God by wisdom founded the earth

And prepared the heavens with discernment.

With perception the depths were broken up,

And the clouds flowed with dew.

My son, do not be careless,

But keep my counsel and thinking,

That your soul may live,

And grace may be around your neck.

And there will be healing for your flesh

And care for your bones,

That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways,

And your foot may not stumble.

For if you sit down, you will be without fear,

And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.

And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you,

Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you;

For the Lord will be over all your ways,

And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken.

Do not withhold doing good to the needy,

When you may give a helping hand;

Do not say, when you are able to do good,

“Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something”;

For you do not know what the next day will bring forth.

Do not devise evil things against your friend

Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.

Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain,

Lest he do you some harm.

Do not incur the reproach of evil men,

Neither seek their ways;

For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord,

And he does not sit among the righteous.

The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly,

But He blesses the dwellings of the righteous.

The Lord opposes the arrogant,

But He gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But the ungodly exalt dishonor.

1Hear, my children, the instruction of your father,

And pay attention, that you might know his thinking;

For I offer a good gift to you;

Do not forsake my law.

For I was a son, and I was obedient to my father,

And beloved in the presence of my mother,

Who taught me, saying,

“Let our word become firmly planted in your heart;

Guard our commandments; do not forget them;

Neither disregard the word of my mouth,

Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you;

Love it, and it will keep you.

Secure it, and it shall exalt you;

Honor it, that it may embrace you,

And give your head a crown of graces,

And cover you with a crown of delight.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-8

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

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all man’s glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 25:1-26:14

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“What beginning or fear is His—

He who makes all things in the highest heaven?

For may no one imagine there is a respite for pirates.

Upon whom will there not be an ambush from Him?

How shall a mortal be righteous before the Lord?

Or how may he who is born of a woman purify himself?

If He orders the moon, then it does not shine,

And the stars are not pure in His sight.

But alas! Man is putrid, and the son of man a worm.”

But Job answered and said:

“To whom are you attached,

Or whom are you going to help?

Is it not He who has great strength

And whose arm is powerful?

To whom have you given counsel?

Is it not to Him who has all wisdom?

Or whom will you follow?

Is it not One who has the greatest power?

To whom have you spoken words?

Whose breath came forth from you?

“Will giants be born under the water

And those inhabiting them?

Hades is naked before Him,

And destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind upon nothing;

He hangs the earth on nothing.

He binds up the water in His clouds,

Yet the cloud is not broken under it.

He grasps the face of His throne

And spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the water by an ordinance

Until the end of light and darkness.

The pillars of heaven were spread all over

And stood amazed at His rebuke.

He checked the sea with His power,

And by His understanding He wounded the sea-monster.

For the bars of heaven fear Him,

Because He put to death the rebellious dragon by a command.

Behold, these are parts of His way,

And we will hearken to the least of His words.

But who knows when He will bring about the strength of His thunder?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

For You, O Lord, are kind and gentle,

and abounding in mercy to all who call on You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,

and attend to the cry of my supplication.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:14-24

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

Returning to the [other] disciples, Jesus saw a great crowd around them and scribes questioning them. At once, when all the people saw him, they were greatly amazed and rushed to greet him. Jesus asked the scribes, “What are you asking them about?”

In the crowd, someone said, “Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute spirit. Wherever the spirit seizes him, it throws him to the ground and my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able.”

Jesus answered him, “Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

They brought the son to him, and when he saw Jesus, the spirit immediately convulsed the boy who fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood”, he answered. Often, it has thrown him both into the fire and into water, in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us!”

Jesus said to the man, “If you are able! All things are possible to the one who believes!”

Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe! Help my unbelief!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:22-26a

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

But you know how he has proved himself; as a child serves a father, he has served with me to spread the Good News. Therefore, I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how things are going with me [here]. As it is, I trust in the Lord that I too will be able to come shortly. But I deemed it necessary to send you Epaphroditus who is my brother, fellow-worker, fellow-soldier, and your apostle and the servant of my need. He longed for you all.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:2-11

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

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:10-23

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

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:17ab

A Psalm of David.

Work a sign for good in my midst,

and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed.

Alleluia.

##### John 8:12-20

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

Then again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

At this, the Pharisees said to him, “You bear witness to yourself! Your testimony is not true!”

Jesus answered them, “Even if I bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two people is truthful. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me [also] bears witness to me.”

At this, they asked him, “Where is your Father?”

Jesus answered, “You do not know me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” Jesus spoke these words in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. Yet no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 8:16-9:35

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

Again the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me in the desert. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send the dog-fly on you and your servants, and on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with the dog-fly, and also the ground on which they stand. Now on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no dog-fly be there, that you may know I am the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this shall be a sign in the land.” ’ ” So the Lord did thus; and the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt, and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. We will go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us.” Pharaoh then said, “I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord.” Then Moses said, “Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord.”

So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Thus the Lord did as Moses said and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people. Not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go so they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the fields—on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep—a very severe pestilence. Then I will make a clear distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ”

Then God appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the cattle of the Egyptians died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel, not one died. Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one among the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh; and let it become dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” So they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven; and they caused boils to break out in sores on man and beast. Now the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers and in all the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said to Moses.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, so they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues into your very heart, and on your servants and your people, that you may know there is not another such as I in all the earth. For now I will stretch forth My hand and smite you and kill your people, and you will be cut off from the earth. But for this very reason were you preserved, that I might display in you My strength, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. As yet, you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time, I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore, hurry now and gather your cattle and all you have in the fields, for the hail shall come down on every man and animal found in the fields; and whatever is not brought home shall die.” ’ ” Thus he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his cattle into the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and cattle in the field.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are ungodly. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer.” So Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord’s. But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord.” Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. Thus when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord said to Moses.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 41:4-14

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

Who worked and performed these things? He called righteousness, He who calls it from generations of old. I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One will say, ‘The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer and forges at the same time.’ Sometimes one will say, ‘It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved.’

“But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of Abraham, whom I loved. I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you, ‘You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand.’ Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as though they did not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. You shall seek but not find the men who rage against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they did not exist. For I am your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not.’ O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel,” says God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 4:9-21

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

Proclaim these things among the nations: “Prepare for war; arouse the warriors; draw near and go up, all you men of war. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ Assemble together and join in, all you nations round about. And in that place, gather yourselves together; let the gentle be warlike. Let all the nations rouse themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit to judge all the nations round about.

“Bring out the sickles, for the harvest is ripe. Come in and tread the grapes, for the winepress is full, the wine vats overflow; for their wickedness is multiplied. The news resounded in the valley of judgment, for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of judgment. The sun and moon shall become dark, and the stars shall withdraw their light. And the Lord shall cry out from Zion, and He shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and earth will quake, but the Lord shall keep His people safe and shall strengthen the sons of Israel. So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, the one dwelling in Zion on My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be a holy city, and no more will strangers pass through her.

“And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip sweetness, and milk shall flow from the hills, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with water. And a fountain shall flow out from the house of the Lord, and it will supply water to the Valley of Acacias. Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a wilderness because of the wrongdoings against the people of Judah, because of the innocent blood shed in their land. But Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem unto generations of generations. And I shall avenge their blood and shall not let it go unpunished. The Lord shall dwell in Zion.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 28:12-28

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

“But where can wisdom be found?

What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

The deep said, ‘It is not in me’;

And the sea said, ‘It is not with me.’

One shall not give massive piles of gold instead of it,

Nor can silver be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with the gold of Ophir,

With the precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal will equal it,

Nor can it be exchanged for vessels of gold.

No mention shall be made of coral and quartz,

But you must hold up wisdom above the most valued things.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,

Nor can it be compared with pure gold.

“From where then is wisdom found,

And what is the place of understanding?

It has been hidden from every man

And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Destruction and Death said,

‘We have heard about its fame.’

God has well established its way,

And He knows its place.

For He watches over the whole earth under heaven,

Knowing the things in the earth, all He has made—

The weight of the winds and the measures of the water.

When He made them, He numbered them

And made a way for the claps of thunder.

Then He saw wisdom and declared it;

He prepared it and traced it out.

He said to man, ‘behold, the fear of God is wisdom,

And to abstain from evils is understanding.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:9-18

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

Hear me, my son, and receive my words,

And the years of your life shall be increased,

That many ways of life may be yours;

For I teach you the ways of wisdom

And set you on upright paths.

For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined;

And if you run, you will not grow weary.

Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go,

But guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

But turn aside from them and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;

Their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest;

For they feed on the bread of ungodliness,

And they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

They go before and give light until full daylight.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

They do not know how they stumble.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 1:1-2:21 or 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21\*

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

There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. He had two wives. The name of onewas Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. To Hannah, he gave one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah.” And she said to him, “Here I am, lord.” Then he said to her, “What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?” So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, “O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

And as she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. And as she spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. The servant of God said to her, “For how long will you remain drunk? Cast off your wine, and go out from the face of the Lord!” But Hannah answered and said, “No lord, I am a woman for whom this day is difficult. I drank neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. Do not consider your handmaiden a daughter of pestilence just because of the multitude of my idle words I have put forth.” Then Eli answered and said to her, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you the petition you asked of Him.” And she said, “Your handmaiden has found favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped the Lord and went on their way back to Elkanah’s house at Ramathaim. And he knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. She conceived, and it came to be at the appointed time she bore a son, and she called him Samuel and said, “Because I asked for him from the Lord God Sabaoth.”

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vow, and the tenth portion of all his land. But Hannah did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, “I will not go up until our boy is weaned from me. Then he will appear in the presence of the Lord and stay there continually.” And Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord confirm as true what was coming out of your mouth.” So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she weaned him.

And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf three years old, loaves of bread, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She came to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was with them. And they came before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering he made yearly to the Lord. He brought the child and slaughtered the calf. Then Hannah, the mother of the young boy, went to Eli. And she said to him, “Lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who was standing near you while I prayed to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord gave me my request which I asked from Him. And I lend him to the Lord all the days which he lives to be fruitful to the Lord.”

And she said:

“My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.”

They left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim, and the child performed the services before the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of scoundrels, not knowing the Lord. And the custom of the priest for the people who sacrificed was for the servant of the priest to come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. He would then thrust it into either the large kettle, or the brazen vessel, or the pot; and everything the meat-hook brought up, the priest would take for himself. So in Shiloh, they did this to all the Israelites who came there to sacrifice to the Lord. Also, before they burned the fat, the servant came and said to the man who sacrificed, “Give some meat to be roasted to the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat from out of the cauldron.”

And if the man sacrificing said to him, “First he should burn the fat as fitting, then you may take as much as your soul desires.” But he would say, “No, you shall give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force.” Therefore the sin of the servants is exceedingly great before the Lord, for they nullified the sacrifice of the Lord.

As a young boy, Samuel was serving before the Lord wearing a linen ephod of a servant. Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him once a year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan you made to the Lord.” Then the man went to his place. And the Lord watched over Hannah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew and matured before the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 3a

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

Attend to me, and hear me.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:1-12

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

Jesus then left that place and arrived to the borders of Judea and beyond the Jordan. Again, crowds were gathering around him. As he usually did, he taught them again. Pharisees came to test him, asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

Jesus answered, “What instructions did Moses give you?”

They replied, “Moses allowed a certificate of divorce to be written, and to divorce her.”

But Jesus said to them, “It was because of your hardness of heart that Moses wrote this law for you. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother, and will join to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. Thus, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one tear apart!”

In the house, his disciples asked him again about the same matter. He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:14-5:5

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

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

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:12-18

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

The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:13, 14a

A Psalm of David.

Your mercy towards me is great,

and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.

O God, the transgressors have risen against me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:6-9

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

He then said this parable. “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to look for fruit on it, but found nothing. He said to the vine dresser, ‘Behold, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree for three years, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?’ The gardener answered, ‘Lord, let it be for this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.’” Glory be to God forever.

### Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 42:5-16

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

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the tops of the mountains. They will give glory to God and declare His virtues in the coastlands. The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal, and cry out against His enemies with strength. I held My peace, and I will not always be silent and restrain Myself. Now I will be steadfast, like a woman in labor. I shall amaze and dry up together. I will make the rivers into coastlands and dry up marsh-meadows. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know, and will cause them to tread paths they have not known. I will turn darkness into light for them, and make crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:19-28

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

My son, give heed to my word

And incline your ear to my words,

That your fountains may not fail you;

Guard them in your heart;

For they are life to those who find them

And healing for all their flesh.

Keep your heart with all watchfulness,

For from these words are the issues of life.

Put away from yourself a crooked mouth

And remove unrighteous lips far from you.

Let your eyes look straight forward,

And let your eyelids assent to righteous things.

Make straight paths for your feet

And direct your ways aright.

Do not turn aside to the right or to the left,

But turn your foot from an evil way;

\*[For God knows the ways on the right hand,

But those on the left are perverse;

And He shall make your paths straight

And guide your steps in peace.]\*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] lacking in Oattawa and Southern United States. Found in Kitchener.

##### Job 29:2-20

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

“Who may put me in months past,

As in the days when God protected me—

As when His lamp shone upon my head,

And by His light I walked in the darkness;

As when I steadfastly pursued my ways,

When God’s visitation was over my house;

As when I lived in abundance,

And my children were around me;

As when my roads spread out with butter,

And the mountains flowed with milk for me;

“As when I went early in the city,

And took my seat in the open square;

The young men saw me and hid,

And all the old men stood up.

The great men refrained from talking

And put their finger to their mouth.

Those who heard me blessed me,

And their tongue stuck to their throat.

The ear heard and blessed me,

And the eye saw me and turned aside.

For I saved the poor from the hand of the oppressor

And helped the orphan who had no helper.

The blessing of the perishing man came upon me,

And the widow’s mouth blessed me.

I put on righteousness

And clothed myself with judgment like a robe.

I was the eye of the blind and the foot of the lame.

I was the father of the weak,

And I searched out the cause I did not know.

I broke the molars of the wrongdoers

And plucked the spoil from the midst of their teeth.

“Then I said, ‘My age shall continue as the stem of a palm tree,

And I shall live a long while.’

My root was spread out to the waters,

And the dew would settle on my harvest.

My glory was fresh within me,

And my bow prospered in its hand.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 3:1-20 or 1 Samuel 3:1-20\*

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

The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. So on that day, while Eli was lying down in his place, his eyes were starting to grow heavy, barely able to see. Before the lamp of God went out, and while Samuel was asleep in the temple where the ark of God was, the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel answered, “Here I am!” So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And Eli said, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.” So he returned and lay down. Then the Lord called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” So Samuel went to Eli a second time, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Eli answered, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.”

Now this all happened before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. And he said, “Return, lie down, my child; and if He calls you, you must say, ‘O Lord, speak, for Your servant hears.’ ” So Samuel went and fell asleep in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold! I shall execute My words in Israel, and for everyone hearing them, both ears will tingle. In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything I spoke concerning his house. This I will begin, and I will finish it. For I announced to him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and he did not correct them in any way. I swore to the house of Eli that the iniquity of the house of Eli shall never be atoned for with incense or with sacrifice.”

So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord’s house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called to Samuel, “Samuel, my child!” And he answered, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you.” Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him.”

So Samuel grew and matured, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:14

A Psalm of David.

O God, the transgressors have risen against me,

and an assembly of violent men have sought my soul,

and did not set You before them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:37-43b

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

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great multitude met him. A man from the crowd called out, saying, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. Behold, when a spirit seizes him, he suddenly cries out and it convulses him so that he foams [at the mouth]. It scarcely ever leaves him and is breaking him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

Jesus answered, “Faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”

While the boy was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him violently. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the majesty of God.

[And all marveled at all that Jesus did.]\*

Glory be to God forever.

\*Based on the Arabic. EOB reads “But while all were marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,”

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

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

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak [to you] as to people that have common sense. Judge what I say: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is not it a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body because we all partake of the one loaf of bread. Consider Israel according to the flesh: is it not true that those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

What am I saying then: that something sacrificed to idols is meaningful, or that an idol is anything? [No], but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and also from the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons as well. Or do we [want to] provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are profitable. “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things build up. We should not seek our own good, but our neighbor’s good.

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliever (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your own, but the other’s conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else’s conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:2c-8

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

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:5-14

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

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:17

A Psalm of David.

Work a sign for good in my midst,

and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed,

because You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:10-17

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

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. Behold, there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up. When Jesus saw her, he called her, and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!” He laid his hands on her and immediately, she stood up straight and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the crowd, “There are six days in which people should work! Therefore, come on those days and be healed, not on the Sabbath day!”

Then, the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each one of you free his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath, and lead it out to water? Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham who was bound by Satan for eighteen years, be freed from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame and all the people rejoiced over all the glorious things that were done by him. Glory be to God forever.

### Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

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

Now it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land you are to inherit, you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Indeed are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of Canaan, the area that lies to the west near Gilgal, beside the lofty oak? For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to inherit the land the Lord your God is giving you; and you will inherit it all your days and dwell in it. Therefore, you shall be careful to do all the ordinances and judgments I set before you today.

“These are the ordinances and judgments you shall be careful to observe in the land the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to inherit, all the days you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places the nations you will inherit served their gods: on the high mountains, on the hills, and under the tree of the grove. So you shall destroy their altars, break their pillars, cut down their groves, burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and destroy their name from that place. You shall not do thus with the Lord your God. But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called on there; and you shall go and seek Him there. There you shall bring your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, firstfruits, prayers, voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your oxen and sheep. There you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God blessed you.

“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes— for as yet, you have not come to the rest and the inheritance the Lord your God gives you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, and you dwell in safety, then there will be the place the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all I command you today: your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the first fruits of your hands, and all your gifts and all your choice gifts you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself, do not offer your whole burnt offerings in every place you see; but in the place the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes; there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all I command you today.

“However, according to your every desire, you may slaughter and eat meat, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you in each city; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You may not eat the tithe in your cities: of your grain, wine, or olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen or sheep, of any of your offerings you vow, of your agreements, or of the firstfruits of your hands. But you must eat them before the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses, you and your son and daughter, your male and female servant, and the resident alien in your cities; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all to which you put your hand. Take heed to yourself, do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

“Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your oxen and sheep the Lord gave you in the manner I commanded you, and may eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life; the life will not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. Only the holy things you have and your vowed offerings you shall take and go to the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall offer your whole burnt offerings; you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall eat the meat.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kings 17:2-24 or 1 Kings 17:2-24

From the Third book of Kings.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there.” So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink.” She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But the woman said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” But Elijah said to her, “Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ” So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.

Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son.” But Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, “Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son.” Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him.” So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, “Behold, your son lives.” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 5:1-12

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

My son, hold fast to wisdom

And incline your ear to my words,

That you may guard good thinking;

And I command you with the perception of my lips.

Do not join yourself to a base woman,

For honey drips from the lips of a prostitute,

Or for a season she is pleasing to your taste;

Afterward, however, you will find her more bitter than gall

And sharper than a two-edged sword.

For feet lacking discernment lead those using her down into Hades with death;

Her footsteps are not planted,

For she does not travel the ways of life;

And her paths are slippery and not easy to discern.

Now therefore, my son, hear me,

And do not make my words invalid;

Make your way distant from her

And do not come near the doors of her house,

That you may not give away your life to others

And your existence to the merciless;

That strangers may not be filled with your strength,

And your labors go into the houses of strangers,

And you should feel regret at the last,

When the flesh of your body is consumed;

And you will say, “How I hated instruction

And turned my heart away from reproofs.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:1-9

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

And now, thus says the Lord God who made you, O Jacob, and who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I redeemed you. I called you by your name, for you are Mine. If you pass through water, I am with you; and the rivers shall not overflow you. If you pass through fire, you shall not be burned up, nor shall the flame consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, who saves you. I made Egypt and Ethiopia your ransom and gave Seba on your behalf. Since you were precious in My sight, you became glorious, and I love you. I will give many men for you and rulers to lead you. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Bring them,’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back. Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone called by My name.’ For in my glory I prepared him, and formed and made him. I brought forth the blind people, and their eyes are alike blind, and their ears deaf.” All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 30:9-32:5

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

“But now I am their lyre,

And they have me as their byword.

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

For He has opened His quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off restraint in my presence.

They rose up against me by the right hands of their offspring;

And they stretched out their foot

And directed against me their paths of destruction.

My paths are ruined, for they stripped off my garment.

He shot me down with His arrows

And used me as He wished.

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains are turned upon me.

My hope is gone like the wind

And my salvation like a cloud.

“Even now my soul will be poured forth upon me,

And the days of pains seize me.

By night my bones are set on fire,

And my sinews are broken up.

With great force He took hold of my garment,

And like the collar of my tunic He surrounded me.

You regarded me as clay in the earth,

And my portion is with ashes.

“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me.

They stood and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy

And scourged me with a strong hand.

You appointed pains for me

And cast me away from salvation.

For I know death will destroy me,

For the earth is the house for every mortal.

“Would that I might lay hands on myself,

Or at least ask another, and he would do it for me.

Yet I wept over every man without strength

And groaned when I saw a man in distress.

But while I held firmly to good things,

Days of evils happened to me instead.

My stomach churns and will not be quiet,

And days of poverty have come upon me.

I go groaning without restraint;

I stand up and cry out in the church.

I have become a brother of sirens

And a companion of sparrows.

My skin has been greatly darkened,

And my bones are burned by the heat.

My lyre turned into mourning

And my song into my weeping.

“I have made a covenant with my eyes,

And I will not think upon a virgin.

What has God apportioned from above,

And what is the inheritance of the Mighty One from on high?

Is not destruction for the wrongdoer,

And alienation for those who do lawlessness?

Will He not see my way and count all my steps?

“If I have walked with scorners,

Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

May He weigh me therefore with a just scale,

For He knows my integrity.

If my foot has turned from the way,

Or if my heart has followed after my eyes,

Or if gifts have touched my hands,

Then may I sow and others eat.

Yes, may I be uprooted on the earth.

“If my heart has followed after another man’s wife,

Or if I have laid wait at her door,

Then also may my wife please another,

And may my children be humiliated.

For the rage of anger is uncontrollable

In defiling another man’s wife.

For it is a fire burning on every side,

And whomever it comes upon, it destroys at the roots.

If I have despised the judgment of my servant or handmaid

When they judged me,

What then will I do when the Lord brings me to trial and visits me?

How shall I answer Him?

Did not He who made me in the womb make them?

So we were fashioned in the same womb.

“But the weak did not miss whatever they happened to need,

And I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.

If I ate my morsel by myself

And did not share it with the orphan

(But from my youth I nourished them as a father,

And from my mother’s womb I guided the widow);

If I have neglected the naked as he was perishing

And did not clothe him;

If the weak did not bless me,

And if their shoulders were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs;

If I raised my hand against the orphan,

Trusting that my strength was far superior to his,

Then let my shoulder fall from my collarbone;

Let my arm be torn from its socket.

For the fear of the Lord seized me,

And I cannot endure His burden.

If I have made gold my strength

Or trusted the precious stone,

If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,

And if I, too, laid my hand on countless treasures

(Or do I not see the shining sun eclipsed and the moon waning?

For this does not depend upon them);

If my heart has been secretly deceived,

And if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it,

Then may this also be reckoned to me

As the greatest lawlessness;

For I have lied against the Lord most high.

“If I, too, was glad at the fall of my enemies,

And my heart said, ‘Good! Well done!’

Then may my ear hear my curse,

And may I be a byword among my people in my affliction.

If my handmaids have often said,

‘Who may give us his meat to be satisfied?’

(But I was very kind.

For the stranger did not spend the night outside;

And my door was opened to everyone who came);

If I sinned involuntarily, then covered my sin,

(For I did not stand in awe of great multitude,

So as not to confess before them);

And if I permitted a poor man to go out of my door

With an empty bosom

(Who may listen to me?);

And if I had not feared the hand of the Lord,

And as to the document I had against someone,

I would place it as a crown on my shoulders and read it,

And if I did not tear it up and return it,

Having taken nothing from the debtor;

“If at any time the land groaned against me

And its furrows wept together,

If I have eaten its strength alone without paying,

Or if I also grieved the soul of the owner of the land

By casting him out,

Then may the nettle come to me instead of wheat,

And bramble instead of barley.”

Thus Job ceased speaking.

Job’s three friends also ceased answering him, for he was righteous before them. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, of the country of Ausitis, became furious; and he was very angry with Job, because he declared himself to be righteous before the Lord. He was also very angry with Job’s three friends, because they found no answer to Job, and yet affirmed he was an ungodly man. Now because they were years older than he, Elihu waited to speak to Job. So when Elihu saw there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:9, 10a

A Psalm of David.

All the nations[, which] You have made,

will come and worship You, O Lord,

and they will glorify Your Name.

For You are great, and work wonders.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:28-34

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

One of the scribes came and heard them debating. Knowing that Jesus had answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”

Jesus answered, “The greatest is, ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The scribe said to him, “It is well, teacher, that you have said truly that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with the whole heart, and with the whole mind, with the whole soul, and with the whole strength; and to love one’s neighbor as oneself. It is more important than any whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that the scribe had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God!”

No one dared to ask him any [other] question after that. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:5b-16

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

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord, do not faint when you are reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens, and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

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

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. Be careful, for fear that anyone might fall short of the grace of God or that any root of bitterness should trouble you; many are poisoned by this. Be careful that there is no sexually immoral or profane person [among you], like Esau who sold his birthright for a meal.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:15-5:5

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

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

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

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:3

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

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

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 137:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,

and I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,

for You heard the words of my mouth.

I will bow down toward Your holy temple.

Alleluia.

##### John 8:21-27

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

Then, Jesus spoke to them again, “I am going away; you will seek me, and you will die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come.”

At this, the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”

Jesus said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you therefore that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {he}, you will die in your sins.”

Therefore, they asked him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning! I have much to say concerning you and [much] to condemn. these [things] I say to the world.”

They did not understand that he spoke to them about the Father. Glory be to God forever.

### Saturday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 64:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

The words of the ungodly have overwhelm us.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 15:3-10

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

So Jesus told them this parable. “Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing! Coming home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, telling them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous who need no repentance.

Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins and lost one, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and look hard until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying: ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma coin which I had lost!’ Likewise, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 5:16-6:2

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

I say this: walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. What the [fallen] flesh desires is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh! Yes, these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now, the works of the flesh are obvious. They are: adultery, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, the practice of magic, hatred, strife, selfish ambitions, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, excess drinking, orgies, and similar things. About these, I warn you, as I have done in the past: those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law! Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit! Let us not become arrogant, challenging and envying one another.

Brethren, even if someone is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. But watch out for yourself in order not to be tempted. Bear each others’ burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-11

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1b-18

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

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

As for myself, I certainly thought that it was my duty to oppose the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. I also did this in Jerusalem: having received authority from the chief priests, I had many of the saints imprisoned, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Often I went to all the synagogues to have them punished and I tried to make them blaspheme. Filled with rage against them, I even persecuted them in foreign cities.

Then, as I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission from the chief priests, at noon, O king, I saw on the way a light from the sky. It was brighter than the sun and shone around me and those who were traveling with me. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads!’

I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

He replied, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting! But arise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness both of what you have seen and of what I will reveal to you. I will rescue you from the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and receive remission of sins as well as an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, hear my prayer;

give ear to my supplication in Your truth;

Hear me in Your righteousness,

and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 23:13-39

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

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, ‘If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but inside, they are full of greed and excess. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and platter, so that the outside may also become clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood ofthe prophets.’ Therefore, you testify to yourselves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 38:13

A Psalm of David.

“Hear my prayer, O Lord,

and give ear to my supplication;

do not be silent at my tears.

For I am a sojourner before You,

and a stranger, as all my fathers were.”

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:1-8

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:2, 3a, 13

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

and let my cry come to You.

Do not turn Your face from me;

But You, O Lord, remain forever,

and Your remembrance is from generation to generations.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?”

They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*‘The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?’*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people considered him to be a prophet. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

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

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:1-18

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

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:19-27:8

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

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. I first proclaimed this to the people of Damascus, Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea. Then, I also proclaimed it to the Gentiles; that they should repent, turn to God, and do works worthy of [their] repentance. For this reason, the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. Yet, having obtained God’s help, I stand to this day and bear witness to small and great alike. I only say what the prophets and Moses said would happen, how the Christ must suffer, and how, by the resurrection of the dead, he would be first to proclaim light both to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles.”

As Paul was presenting this defense, Festus exclaimed with a loud voice, “Paul, you are crazy! Your great learning is driving you insane!”

But Paul replied, “I am not crazy, Most Excellent Festus, but boldly declare words of truth and good sense. Indeed, the king is aware of these things and I will also speak freely to him. For I am convinced that none of this is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe!”

Agrippa then said to Paul, “With a little persuasion, are you trying to make me a Christian?”

Paul answered, “I pray to God, that whether with little or with much, not only you but also all that hear me today might become as I am, except for these chains.”

The king rose up with the governor, along with Bernice and those who sat with them. After retiring, they talked together and agreed, “This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment.” Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for. Putting to sea from there, we sailed under [the shelter of] Cyprus because the winds were contrary. After sailing across the open sea off [the coasts of] Cilicia and Pamphylia, we arrived in Myra, a city of Lycia. There, the centurion found a ship sailing from Alexandria to Italy, and he put us on board. After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived with difficulty near Cnidus. The wind did not allow us to go further [on course], we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone. We sailed along the coast and arrived at a place called ‘Fair Havens’, near the city of Lasea.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 32:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

He loves mercy and justice;

the earth is full of the Lord’s mercy.

By the Word of the Lord the heavens were established,

and by the breath of His mouth, all their hosts.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

Now, it was the Sabbath on that day. And so, the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath! It is not lawful for you to carry the mat!”

The man answered them, “He who made me well, that one said to me, ‘Take up your mat, and walk.’”

Then they asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your mat, and walk’?”

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

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

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

### Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 141:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I cried to the Lord with my voice,

I prayed with my voice to the Lord.

I will pour out my prayer before Him;

I will declare my affliction in His presence.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!”

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes!”

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or, ‘Get up, and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (then he said to the paralytic), “Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house.”

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:1-11

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

You shall proclaim wisdom

That discernment may obey you;

For she is on the lofty summit

And stands in the midst of the paths.

For she sits beside the gates of princes

And sings at the entrances,

“You, O men, I exhort,

And I utter my voice to the sons of men;

Understand astuteness, O simple ones,

And put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones.

Obey me, for I speak sacred things,

And from my lips I will bring forth things that are true.

For my mouth shall speak the truth,

But false lips are an abomination before me.

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness;

There is nothing in them crooked or twisted.

All things are evident to those who understand

And true to those who find knowledge.

Lay hold of instruction and not silver,

And knowledge rather than tested gold,

And choose perception rather than pure gold.

For wisdom is better than precious stones,

And every costly thing is not worthy of her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:10-28

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

“You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God, “and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God. “Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?”

Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. I am the Lord God, your Holy One, who made known your King, O Israel.” Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:6-16

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

So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

“I am young in years, and you are the elder;

Therefore I was silent

And dared not declare my knowledge to you.

I said, ‘It is not time that speaks,

Though in many years, men know wisdom.’

But there is a spirit in mortals,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches them.

The long-lived are not always wise,

Nor do the old men always know judgment.

“Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me,

I also will declare what I know.’

Pay close attention to my words,

For I will speak in your hearing, while you examine my words,

And until I shall understand you.

So behold, not one of you answered Job in argument;

Lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom added to the Lord.’

But you permitted a man to speak such words.

“They were dismayed and answered no more;

They made their words obsolete.

I waited, for they did not speak.

Because they stood still, they did not answer.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 37:10

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, all my desire is before You,

and my groaning is not hidden from You.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:1-12

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

He began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a tower. He then rented it to tenant farmers and left for another country. When it was time, he sent a servant to the farmers to receive his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But they took the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty. Again, the owner sent another servant to them, and they threw stones at him, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. Again he sent another; and they killed him along with many others, beating some, and killing some. The man still had one left to send, his beloved son. Finally, he sent him to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the tenants of the vineyard said among themselves, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’ They took him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come to destroy the farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture:

‘*The very stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the head of the corner.*

*This is the Lord’s doing,*

*And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*

They kept trying to arrest Jesus, but they feared the multitude because they understood that he had spoken the parable against them. So they left him and went away. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

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

As for other matters, brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus: as you received from us how you should live to please God, may you make progress in this ever more! For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. This is the will of God: your sanctification, and that you abstain from sexual immorality. Each one of you should know how to practice self-control of the body in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passions, as Gentiles who do not know God. No one should take advantage of or wrong a brother [or sister] in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we warned you and testified to you. Certainly, God did not call us for impurity but to sanctification! Therefore, whoever rejects this does not reject a human [command], but God, who has also given his Holy Spirit to you.

But concerning brotherly love, you have no need that one should write to you since you have learned from God how to love one another, and this is what you do toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to overflow even more! Make it your goal to lead a quiet life, to take care of your own affairs, and to work with your own hands, even as we instructed you. Thus, you will live properly in the sight of those who are outside and you will lack nothing.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-12

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:9-18b

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

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 34:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Judge those who wrong me, O Lord;

fight against those who fight against me!

Take hold of weapon and shield,

and rise up to help me!

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!” Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:12-21

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

I, wisdom, dwell with counsel,

And I call upon knowledge and understanding.

The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness,

And both rudeness and arrogance, and the ways of wicked men;

And I hate the perverted ways of evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

Discernment is mine, and strength is mine;

By me, kings reign,

And princes write of righteousness;

By me, noblemen become great,

And by me, monarchs have power in the land.

I love those who love me,

And those who seek me shall find me.

Riches and glory belong to me,

And abundant possessions, and righteousness;

It is better to enjoy my fruits than gold and precious stones,

And my fruits are better than choice silver.

I walk in the ways of righteousness,

And I am conversant with the paths of judgment;

That I may distribute substance to those who love me,

And may fill their treasuries with good things.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:1-8

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

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God. Who is just as I am? Then let him stand, let him call and prepare for Me that from which I made man forever, and let them declare to you the things that are coming before they come. Do not hide yourselves. Have you not paid attention from the beginning, and have I not declared it to you? You are My witnesses, if there is a God besides Me? Indeed there was none.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:17-33:33

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

Then Elihu continued and said:

‘Again I will speak, for I am full of words;

The spirit within my stomach is killing me.

Indeed, my stomach is like a wineskin of sweet new wine,

Bound up and ready to burst,

Or like the blowpipe of a coppersmith, ready to bellow.

I will speak, that I may find relief in opening my lips.

I will not feel shame before any man,

Neither indeed will I feel shame before any mortal.

For I do not know how to flatter persons,

Or else the moths would eat me.

“Nevertheless, hear my words, Job,

And pay close attention to what I say.

For behold, I have opened my mouth

And my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart shall be found pure;

And the understanding of my lips will think pure thoughts.

The divine Spirit has made me,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches me.

Give me an answer to these things if you can.

Endure and stand firm against me, and I against you.

You and I were formed out of the clay;

Thus, we have been formed out of the same substance.

My fear will not distract you,

Neither shall my hand be heavy on you.

“However you said in my hearing

(I heard the voice of your words),

For you say, ‘I am pure, for I have not sinned.

I am blameless, for I have not acted lawlessly.

Yet He has found a charge against me;

He has counted me as His enemy.

He has put my feet in the stocks,

And He watches all my paths.’

“For how can you say,

‘I am righteous, yet He has not listened to me’?

For He that is above mortals is eternal.

But you say, ‘Why has He not heard every word of my cause?’

For when the Lord speaks once,

Or in another time in a dream,

Or in a meditation of the night

(As when dreadful fear falls upon men

While slumbering on their bed),

Then He unveils the hearts of men

And frightens them with such fearful visions

So as to turn man from his wrongdoing;

Thus He delivers his body from a fall.

He keeps back his soul from death

And does not allow him to fall in war.

“Again He also chastens him with sickness on his bed,

And the multitude of his bones grow numb.

He is not able to receive any food,

Though his soul may long for it,

Until his flesh wastes away

And he shows his bones bare.

His soul also draws near to death

And his life to Hades.

“If there are a thousand death-bringing messengers,

None of them shall wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn to the Lord,

And declares to man his fault, and shows his folly,

He will support him, that he might not fall into death;

And He will renew his body like fresh plaster upon a wall,

And fill his bones with marrow.

He will make his flesh young like a child’s

And restore him among men in full manhood.

He shall pray to the Lord, and his prayer shall be accepted.

He shall come to prayer with an innocent face

And with an utterance of thanksgiving,

For He will restore righteousness to men.

Even then, a man shall blame himself, saying,

‘I am to blame because of what I did,

Yet He has not examined my guilt

To the extent of my unworthiness.’

Save my soul from going down to corruption,

So my life shall see the light.

“Behold all these things:

The Mighty One works three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death

That my life may praise Him in the light.

“Give ear, Job; listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will speak.

If you have anything to say, answer me;

Speak, for I desire you to be declared as righteous.

If not, listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 5:1-27 or 2 Kings 5:1-27\*

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Naaman, commander of the army of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord gave victory to Syria. The man was mighty in strength and valor, but a leper. And the Syrians, lightly armed, had gone out on raids and brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet of God in Samaria! For he would expel his leprosy from him.” And she went in and told her master, saying, “This is what the girl from the land of Israel said.” Then the king of Syria said to Naaman, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand gold shekels, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, “Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I am sending Naaman my servant to you, so that you may heal him of his leprosy.”

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, able to kill and make alive, to heal this man of his leprosy that this man sends to me? You perceive and see that this man is using this as a pretext for a quarrel with me.” When Elisha the man of God heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent notice to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel.”

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became furious and went away, saying, “Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

Then his servants approached and said to him, “If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, ‘Bathe and be clean.’ ” So Naaman went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha’s instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed. Then he, with all his aides, returned to Elisha and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I have come to know that in all the earth there is no God except the God of Israel. Now accept the gift of your servant.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” Again he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, “If not, then, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of red earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful with your servant: when my master goes there, to the house of Rimmon, to worship, he will rely on my hand, and I will worship in the house of Rimmon. In the worship in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter.” Then Elisha said to Naaman, “Go in peace.”

He departed from him but a short distance. Then Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, said, “Behold, my master spared this Syrian Naaman, yet from his hand he received nothing of what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something of his.” So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he turned from the chariot to meet him. And Gehazi said, “Peace. My master sent me saying, ‘Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets came to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.’ ” Then Naaman said, “Take two talents of silver.” So Gehazi took two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants. They left and carried them on ahead of him. As they entered into the darkness, he took them from their hands and stored them in the house. He then dismissed the men. Now he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, “From where have you come, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.”

Then Elisha said to him, “Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? And now you received the silver and the garments, and it shall happen that you shall receive from him gardens and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and men-servants and handmaidens. And the leprosy of Naaman shall also cling to you and your seed forever.” Thus he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 34:13

A Psalm of David.

I put on sackcloth

when they troubled me,

and I humbled my soul with fasting;

and my prayer will return into my bosom.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:22-30

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

All testified about him and marveled at the gracious words which came out of his mouth; and they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

He said to them, “With doubt, you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard was done at Capernaum, do also here in your hometown.’” He continued, “Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the land Elias was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian.”

As they heard these things, all were filled with wrath in the synagogue. They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to throw him off the cliff. But he, passing through their midst, went his way. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-28

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-2:1

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

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

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

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 41:2

A Psalm of David.

My soul longs for You, O God,

as the deer longs for springs of water.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:18-22

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

Once, as Jesus was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the multitudes say that I am?”

They answered, “‘John the Baptizer,’ but others say, ‘Elias,’ and others, that one of the old prophets is risen again.”

Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God!”

But he warned them, and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the presbyters, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.” Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 10:1-11:10

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

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death.” So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you.” But Moses said, “No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Thus our cattle shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.”

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, “Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die.” So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Now the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here. Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing.” So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne even to the firstborn of the female servant behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against not even one of the descendants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.’ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go from here, and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:21-28

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

“Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you to be My servant; therefore, you, O Israel, do not forget Me. For behold, I blotted out your lawlessness like a cloud and your sins like darkness. Return to Me, and I will redeem you. Be glad, O heavens, for the Lord had mercy on Israel. Sound the trumpet, you foundations of the earth; shout with gladness, you mountains and hills and every tree on them. For God redeemed Jacob, and Israel will be glorified.”

Thus says the Lord, who redeems you and forms you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who accomplishes all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and established the earth. Who else will scatter abroad the sign of ventriloquists and the divinations from their heart, turning their shrewd men backward and making their counsel foolishness? Who else establishes the word of His servant, proving the counsel of His messengers to be true? Who else says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ and to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built, and the desert places shall spring forth’? Who else says to the deep, ‘You shall be dried up, and I will dry up your rivers’? Who else tells Cyrus to be wise, and do all My will, and says to Jerusalem, ‘You will be built, and I shall lay the foundation of My holy house’?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 8:23-35

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

The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works;

He established me in the beginning before time,

Before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses,

Before the going forth of the fountains of waters,

Before the mountains were created;

And He begot me before all hills.

The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places

And the inhabited heights under heaven.

When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him,

And when He set apart His throne upon the winds.

When He made strong the things above the clouds,

And made sure the fountains under heaven,

And made strong the foundations of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

I was He in whom He rejoiced;

Daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.

When He completed the world, He rejoiced,

And He rejoiced in the sons of men.

Now therefore, my son, hear me:

Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me

And the man who shall guard my ways;

Who watches daily at my doors,

Who keeps watch at the doors of my entryways;

For my issues are the issues of life,

And grace is prepared from the Lord.

But those who sin against me act ungodly toward their own souls,

And those who hate me love death.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 34:1-37

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

Elihu continued and said:

“Hear me, O wise men who are present,

And pay close attention to what is good.

For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for ourselves;

Let us know among ourselves what is good.

For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,

And the Lord has taken away my judgment.’

But he spoke untruth in my judgment when he said,

‘My wound is severe, though I am without wrongdoing.’

What man is like Job,

Who drinks scorn like water?

For he says, ‘I have not sinned, nor committed ungodliness,

Nor had anything in common with the workers of lawlessness,

So as to walk with ungodly men.’

For you should not say, ‘There shall be no visitation of a man,’

Whereas there is a visitation on him from the Lord.

“Therefore listen to me, you wise in heart:

May it be far from me to act in an ungodly way before the Lord

And to pervert righteousness before the Almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

And in a man’s path He will find him.

Do you think the Lord will do wrong,

Or will the Almighty who made the earth pervert judgment?

Who is He who created everything under heaven

And all things therein?

If He should wish to hold and restrain His breath within Himself,

All flesh would die together,

And every mortal would return to the ground

From which he was formed.

Take heed to this, lest He warn you;

Pay close attention to the voice of His words.

Behold then the one who hates lawless things

And destroys the evil ones.

He is forever righteous.

He is ungodly who says to a king,

‘You act contrary to the law,’

And to rulers, ‘O, most ungodly one.’

Such a man is not ashamed

Before the face of an honorable man,

Nor does he know how to give honor to the great,

So as to show proper respect.

But it will prove to be in vain for them to cry out

And beg the favor of a man;

For they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

“For He is the observer of the works of man,

And nothing of what they do escapes Him.

There is no place for the workers of lawlessness to hide themselves.

He need not further consider a man,

For the Lord gazes upon all men.

He comprehends unsearchable things,

Glorious also and extraordinary things without number.

He discloses their works;

And He will overthrow them in the night,

And they will be brought low.

He extinguishes the ungodly,

For they are visible before Him,

Because they turned aside from the law of God

And would not regard His ordinances,

So as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;

For He will hear the cry of the poor.

He will provide quietness, and who shall condemn Him?

And He will hide His face, and who shall see Him?

Whether it be done against a nation or a man jointly,

To cause a hypocrite to be king,

Because of the discontent of the people.

“For there is one that says to the Mighty One,

‘I have received blessings; I will not take in pledge;

I will see apart from myself;

Show me if I have done unrighteousness,

And I will do so no more.’

Will He not take vengeance for it from you,

Because you failed to listen to your conscience?

For you will choose, and not I;

Therefore, speak what you know.

“For this reason wise men in heart shall say this,

And a wise man listens to my word.

But Job has spoken without understanding,

And his words are without knowledge.

But learn, Job, and no longer answer like that of foolish men,

That we add not to our sins;

For lawlessness will be counted against us

If we speak many words against the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 10:1-31

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

As goes the leader of a people, so also are his officials,

And all the inhabitants of a city will reflect its ruler.

An undisciplined king will ruin his people,

But a city will be made habitable through the wisdom of its rulers.

The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord,

And He will raise up the right man for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the hand of the Lord,

And He confers His honor upon the person of the scribe.

Do not cherish anger against your neighbor for any injury,

And do nothing by acts of insolence.

Arrogance is hateful before God and man,

And wrongdoing is offensive to both.

Dominion is transferred from nation to nation

Because of wrongdoing, insolence, and wealth.

How can he who is earth and ashes be arrogant?

Because even while living, his insides are decaying.

A physician scoffs at a long illness,

And a king today will also die tomorrow.

When a man dies, he will inherit

Reptiles, wild animals, and worms.

The beginning of a man’s arrogance is to depart from the Lord,

For his heart withdraws from the One who created him.

For the beginning of arrogance is sin,

And he who takes hold of it will pour out an abomination.

Therefore the Lord will bring them extraordinary distress

And completely destroy them.

The Lord pulls down the thrones of rulers

And seats the gentle in their place.

The Lord plucks out the roots of nations

And plants the humble in their place.

The Lord overthrows the lands of the nations

And destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,

And puts an end to their memory on the earth.

Arrogance was not created by mankind,

Nor fierce anger by the offspring of women.

What kind of seed is honored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honored?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

Those who transgress the commandments.

Among brothers their leader is honored,

And those who fear the Lord are honored in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority,

But roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

The rich and the honored and the poor alike—

Their boasting is the fear of the Lord.

It is not right to dishonor an intelligent poor man,

Nor is it proper to honor a sinful man.

The nobleman, the judge, and the ruler will be honored,

But none of them is greater than the one who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a wise servant,

And an understanding man will not grumble.

Do not put your wisdom on display when you do your work,

Nor magnify yourself in the time of your trouble.

Better is he who works and has plenty

Than he who magnifies himself but has no bread.

My son, honor your soul with gentleness

And give it honor according to its worth.

Who will declare righteous the man who sins against his soul,

And who will honor the man who dishonors his life?

A poor man is honored for his knowledge,

While a rich man is honored for his wealth.

If a man is honored in poverty,

How much more in wealth,

And if a man is dishonored in wealth,

How much more in poverty?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:18,

A Psalm of David.

He regarded the prayer of the humble,

and will not despise their supplication;

to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion

and His praise in Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 7:1-20

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

Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came from Jerusalem and gathered to [see] Jesus. When they saw some of his disciples were eating bread with defiled (that is, unwashed) hands, they found fault. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews hold to the tradition of the presbyters and do not eat unless they wash their hands and forearms. [Also], they do not eat when they return from the marketplace unless they [first] bathe themselves; and there are many other things which they have received and observe: washings of cups, pitchers, bronze vessels, and couches.) The Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why is it that your disciples do not live by the tradition of the presbyters, but eat their bread with unwashed hands?”

Jesus answered them, “Well did Isaias prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*‘This people honors me with their lips,*

*but their heart is far from me.*

*But in vain do they worshipb before me,*

*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’*

Indeed, you set aside the commandment of God and hold fast to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.” He said to them, “How ingeniously do you reject the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother;’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever [support] you might have received from me is Corban (that is, dedicated to God)”’ then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or mother. Thus, you nullify the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many [other] things like this.”

Jesus called the entire crowd to himself and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand! There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile; it is what comes out of a person that defile the person. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!”

When he had entered into a house away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, “Are you also without understanding? Do you not perceive that whatever goes into someone from the outside cannot defile that person because it does not go into his heart but into the stomach, and then into the sewer (thus he declared all foods to be clean)?” He said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles that person. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:12-24

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

Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth. You therefore who teach another, [why] do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, [why] do you steal? You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who glory in the law by your disobedience of the law, [why] do you dishonor God? For “the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:20-2:6

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

Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1-8

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

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 9:12, 13a

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,

for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:45-52

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

One of the experts in the law exclaimed, “Teacher, in saying this you insult us also.”

Jesus said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry, and you yourselves will not even lift one finger to help carry those burdens! Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. And so, you testify and consent to the works of your fathers! For they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Therefore, the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles. Some of them they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.’ Yes, I tell you that this generation will be charged with this blood. Woe to you experts of the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge; you yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.” Glory be to God forever.

### Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### 4 Kings 4:8-37 or 2 Kings 4:8-37

From the Fourth book of Kings.

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, “Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place.” Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, “Call this Shunammite woman.” He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, “Say now to her, ‘Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?’ ” But she answered, “I dwell among my own people.”

So Elisha said, “What then is to be done for her?” And his servant, Gehazi, replied, “She certainly has no son, and her husband is old.” Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said, “About this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” So she said, “No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!” Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew.

And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” His father said to a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, “Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back.” So he said, “Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath.” And she replied, “It is well.”

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’ ” And she answered, “Peace.” Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me.” So she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?”

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child.” Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child’s face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child is not awakened.”

Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite woman.” So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, “Take your son.” So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:1-10

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

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:1-11

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

Wisdom built her house,

And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;

She mixed her wine in a bowl

And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,

Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,

Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 35:1-16

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

Elihu continued, saying:

“What is this you consider as judgment?

Who are you to say, ‘I am righteous before the Lord’?

Or will you say, ‘What did I do, if I have sinned?’

“I will answer you and your three friends.

Look up to heaven and see,

And observe the cloud as higher than you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

If you have acted very lawlessly, what can you do?

Since therefore you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what did He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness may affect a man such as you,

Or your righteousness a son of man.

“Those who are slandered by a multitude will cry out;

They will cry out for help because of the strength of the many.

But no one says, ‘Where is the God who made me,

Who appoints the night watches,

Who distinguishes me from the four-footed animals of the earth

And from the birds of heaven?’

There they will cry out, but no one answers,

Because of the insolence of evil men.

For the Lord does not desire to look on wrongdoing,

For He, the Almighty, is the observer

Of those who perform lawless deeds,

But He will save me.

Decide before Him if you can praise Him as it is now possible.

But now, He is not visiting His wrath,

Nor even taking notice of very much transgression;

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain;

In ignorance he burdens us with words.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 11:1-10

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The wisdom of a humble man will exalt his head,

And he will take his seat among the great.

Do not praise a man for his good looks,

And do not detest one because of his appearance.

The bee is small among winged creatures,

But her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast about your fine clothes,

Nor magnify yourself in the day you are honored;

Because the works of the Lord are wondrous,

And His works are hidden from men.

Many tyrants have sat on the ground,

But one never thought of has worn a crown.

Many rulers have suffered exceeding disgrace,

And honored men have been betrayed into the hands of others.

Do not find fault before you examine a situation.

First, understand it, and then make your judgment.

Do not answer before you have listened,

And do not interrupt someone while he is talking.

Do not argue about a matter that does not concern you,

And do not sit together with sinners when they judge a case.

My son, do not let your business involve too many things.

If you multiply them, you will not remain unpunished,

And if you pursue them, you will not overtake them;

And you will not escape by running away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 9:14

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O Lord;

see how my enemies have humiliated me,

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:9-19

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

He began to tell the people this parable. “A certain man planted a vineyard and rented it out to some farmers, and went into another country for a long time. At the proper season, he sent a servant to the farmers to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty. The owner then sent yet another servant, and they also beat him, treated him with contempt, and sent him away empty. The owner sent yet a third [servant], and they also wounded him, and threw him out. Then, the lord of the vineyard thought, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son! It may be that seeing him, they will respect him.’

But when the farmers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying: ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ So, they threw the son out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now, what will the lord of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy these farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they exclaimed, “May it never be!” But Jesus looked at them, and said, “Then what is this that is written:

*‘The stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the chief cornerstone?’*

*Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,*

*and it will crush to dust whoever it falls on.*

The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to lay hands on him that very hour, but they feared the people because they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 2:1-3:4

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

Therefore, I encourage that first of all, petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all: for kings and all in high places, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and piety. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all - this testimony [was given] in its own times. I was appointed a preacher and an apostle of these things (I am telling the truth in Christ, not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire, therefore, that in every place, the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or doubting. In the same way, women should wear decent clothing, modest and fitting, without elaborate hairstyle, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, but with good works (which is fitting for women professing godliness). Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:19-25

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:16-20

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

Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Pslam 9:14c, 15ab

A Psalm of David.

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death,

that I may proclaim all Your praises

in the gates of daughter Zion.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:47-71

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who is believing in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life! Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, its purpose is that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, this one will live forever! Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

At this, the Jews disputed with one another, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks myblood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I li e because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!” He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Therefore, many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?”

But knowing in himself that his disciples grumbled at this, Jesus said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who were those who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him. He said, “For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

At this, many of his disciples went back and no longer walked with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life! We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus told them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And [yet] one of you is a devil!” Now, he was speaking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray him, and he was one of the Twelve. Glory be to God forever.

### Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 22:1-18

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

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham! Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” He then replied, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, “In the mountain the Lord was seen.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:11-17

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

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: “Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven and commanded all the stars. I raised him up to be a king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts,” says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass over to you. They shall be your servants and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say, ‘There is no God besides You. For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.’ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:12-21

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

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths,

“He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me;

And he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying,

‘Grasp with pleasure the secret bread

And the sweet water of theft.’ ”

But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her,

And he happens upon a snare of Hades.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 36:1-32\*

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

Elihu also proceeded and said:

‘Wait for me yet a little while, that I may teach you,

For there is yet more for me to say.

I will gather my knowledge from afar

And truly speak of righteousness in my works.

You were not hearing unjust words without good reason.

“But know that the Lord who is mighty in strength of heart

Does not cast off an innocent man.

He will not give life to the ungodly,

But He will give judgment to the poor.

He will not turn away from the righteous,

But will seat them on the throne with kings;

For He will lift them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But if they are bound in fetters,

They shall be held in the cords of poverty.

He will tell them their works and their transgressions,

For such will act with violence.

He also will hear the righteous,

And He said they will turn from wrongdoing.

If they give ear and serve Him,

They shall spend their days in good things

And their years in dignity.

But He does not save the ungodly,

Because they are not willing to know the Lord,

And because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

“For the hypocrites in heart will marshal anger against themselves,

And they will not cry for help, because He has bound them.

Therefore, may their soul die in youth,

And their life be wounded by messengers of death,

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

And He will make manifest the judgment of the gentle.

“Besides, He deceived you by the mouth of the enemy.

There is an abyss and a pouring over beneath it,

And your table descended full of fatness.

Judgment shall not fail from the righteous,

But there shall be anger against the ungodly

Because of the ungodliness of the gifts they received for wrongdoings.

Let not your heart willingly turn you aside

From the petition of the weak who are in distress.

Do not lure away all the mighty men at night

So the people should go up instead of them.

“But guard yourself, lest you do what is wrong,

For you chose this because of poverty.

Behold, the Mighty One shall prevail by His strength.

Who is so powerful as He?

Who is he who examines His works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done unjustly’?

“Remember, His works are great,

Because of which men began to exist.

Everyone has seen for himself

How many mortals are wounded.

“Behold, the Mighty One is great,

And we do not know Him.

The number of His years is also endless.

For He numbers the drops of rain,

And they shall be poured out in rain to form a cloud.

The ancient clouds shall drop down

And overshadow innumerable mortals.

He has fixed a time for cattle,

And they know the appointed time for their rest.

Yet your mind is not astonished by these things,

Nor does your heart leap out from your body.

For one should perceive the outspreadings of a cloud

And the measure of His tabernacle.

Behold, He stretches His bow against him

And covers the bottom of the sea.

For by these He will judge the peoples.

He will give food to him who has strength.

He has hidden light in His hands

And given orders to the cloud by which it is diverted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Kitchener and Ottawa, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Job 37:1-24\*

Again from the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“At this also my heart was troubled and flows from its place.

Listen attentively to the thunder of the Lord’s wrath

And the discourse coming from His mouth.

His dominion is under the whole heaven

And His light to the ends of the earth.

Behind Him a voice will cry aloud.

He will thunder with His voice of outrage,

Yet He will not change them when His voice is heard.

The Mighty One will thunder marvelously with His voice,

For He does great things we cannot comprehend.

For He commands the snow, ‘Fall upon the earth,’

And likewise there is the winter,

The rain and the winter storms of His might.

He seals up the hand of every man

That everyone may know his weakness.

The wild animals go into their shelters

And are at rest in their lairs.

From the secret chambers comes the whirlwind,

And cold from the mountaintop.

By the breath of the Mighty One, He will send frost,

And He freezes the waters as He wishes.

And when the cloud obscures what He chooses,

His light will disperse the cloud.

He will swirl the encircling clouds by His governance

To perform all their works,

Moving them to do whatever He commands.

This has been appointed by Him on the earth,

Whether for correction or for His earth,

Or if He shall find him an object for mercy.

“Pay close attention to this, O Job.

Stand still and consider the power of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed His works,

Having made light out of darkness.

He knows the division of the clouds

And the violent falls of evil men.

But your robe is warm,

And there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish with Him the foundations

For the ancient heavens?

They are strong like a molten mirror.

“What is this to you? Teach me what we will say to Him,

And let us cease speaking many words.

Have I a book or scribe by me

That I may stand and put man to silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the ancient heavens,

As that which is from Him in the clouds.

From the north come the clouds, shining like gold;

In these great things are the glory and honor of the Almighty.

We do not find another like Him in His strength.

Do you not think He who judges righteously listens?

Therefore men shall fear Him,

And the wise in heart shall fear Him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Ottawa and Kitchener, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Tobit 1:1-3:6

From the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the book of the words of Tobit, the son of Tobiel, the son of Hananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, from the tribe of Naphtali. He was led captive out of Thisbe in the days of Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians. Thisbe is south of Kedesh Naphtali, in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I did much almsgiving to my brethren and to the people who journeyed with me as exiles to Nineveh, in the country of the Assyrians. In my young days, when I was in my own country, the land of Israel, the entire tribe of my father Naphtali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to sacrifice for all the tribes. This temple, the habitation of the Most High God, was sanctified and built for all generations forever.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt sacrificed the heifer to Baal. The house of Naphtali, the tribe of my father, also revolted. But I alone traveled frequently to Jerusalem for the feast days, as it is written for all of Israel in an everlasting ordinance. I would carry the firstfruits and the tithes of my harvest and the first-shearing. These I would give to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I would offer the tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi who served at Jerusalem. I would also sell off the second tenth and go and spend it at Jerusalem each year. The third tenth I would give to whom it was fitting, as Deborah the mother of my father commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. When I became a man, I took Anna for a wife from my own kindred. With her I became the father of Tobias.

When I was taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those from my race ate from the bread of the Gentiles. But I protected myself by not eating it. For I remembered God with all my soul. So the Most High gave me grace and comeliness before Shalmaneser, and I became his purchasing agent. I would go into Media. And one time in Rages of Media, I entrusted to Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, ten talents of silver.

When Shalmaneser died and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the roads were unstable and I could no longer travel to Media. In the days of Shalmaneser, I did much almsgiving to my brothers. I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked. If I saw anyone of my people dead, cast outside the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him. If King Sennacherib put someone to death when he came trying to escape from Judea, I buried them secretly. For in his anger, he put many to death, and the bodies were sought by the king; but they were not found. But one of the men of Nineveh went and made known to the king concerning my burying them. So I hid, and when I knew I was being sought to be put to death I was frightened and ran away. All of my possessions were seized and I had nothing left, except Anna my wife and Tobias my son.

But not even fifty days passed before two of King Sennacherib’s sons had killed him and escaped into the mountains of Ararat. Thus Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Anael, to be over all the accounts of his kingdom and over the entire government. Ahikar then entreated on my behalf, so I came to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was the wine-pourer, the keeper of the signet ring, the administrator and the accountant. Esarhaddon appointed him second to himself, and he was my nephew.

When I arrived at my house, my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the Feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A good dinner was prepared for me, so I sat down at the table to eat. When I saw the abundance of meat, I said to my son, “Go and bring whomever you may find of our needy brethren who are mindful of the Lord. Behold, I will wait for you.” But he came back and said, “O father, one of our people was strangled and thrown into the marketplace.” So before I even tasted anything, I jumped up and carried the corpse into a room until sunset. Then I returned, bathed myself, and ate my bread in sorrow. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said,

“Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

And all your gladness into a song of grief.”

So I wept. When the sun went down, I departed, and after digging a grave, I buried him. My neighbors laughed at me and said, “He is no longer afraid to be put to death for doing such a thing. He ran away before, and now, behold, he is burying the dead again.”

On the same night that I buried him, I returned home. But since I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the courtyard with my face uncovered.

However, I did not see the sparrows on the wall, for while my eyes were open the sparrows discharged their droppings into my eyes, and they became white films in my eyes. I went to physicians, but they could not help me. Then Ahikar supported me until he left for Elymais.

Then my wife Anna worked for hire at what women do. She would send her work to the owners and they would pay her. On one occasion they paid her wages and also gave her a small goat. But when she returned to me, it began to bleat. So I said to her, “Where did this goat come from? Is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is unlawful to eat what is stolen.” But she replied, “It was given to me as a gift. It was in addition to my wages.” But I did not believe her, telling her to return it to its owners. I blushed in embarrassment for her sake. So she answered and said to me, “Are your acts of charity and righteous deeds lawful? Behold, you are a know-it-all!”

Then I wept in my sorrow, and with pain I prayed, saying:

“O Lord, You are righteous. So too are all Your works. All Your ways are mercy and truth. Your judgments are true and just forever. Remember me and look upon me with favor. Do not punish me for my sins and my ignorance, nor those sins of my fathers which they committed against You. Because they disobeyed Your commands, so You gave us as spoil, captivity and death. You made us a byword of disgrace among all the nations in which we were scattered. Now Your judgments concerning my sins are many and they are true, because I did them, and so did my fathers. For we did not keep Your commandments. Indeed we did not walk in truth before You. Now do with me as is best before You. Command that my spirit be taken up, so I may be released and become soil, since it is better for me to die than to live. For I have heard false insults, and there is much sorrow within me. Command that I be freed from distress to now enter into the eternal place. Do not turn Your face away from me.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 3:7-3:16

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On the same day, in Ecbatana of Media, Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, happened to be insulted by her father’s maids. She was married to seven husbands, but before they could be with her as a wife, Asmodeus, the evil demon, killed them. So they said to her, “Do you not recollect that you strangled these husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Therefore, why punish us? If they are dead, go with them. May we never see a son or daughter of yours.”

When she heard this, she was so distressed that she considered hanging herself. But she said, “I am the only one of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades.” So she prayed by her window and said:

“Blessed are You, O Lord my God. Blessed is Your holy and precious name unto the ages. May all Your works bless You forever. Now, O Lord, I offer myself completely to You. Command that I be released from the land, that I may not hear such disgrace any more. O Lord, You know that I am innocent of any sin with a man. I have not defiled my name nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am my father’s only offspring. He has no other child who will be his heir. Neither does he have a brother close at hand, nor an adopted son that I might keep myself as a wife to him. Seven of my husbands have already perished. What should I live for? But if it does not seem good to You to kill me, command that I be looked upon with favor, and that mercy be shown to me, so I may no longer hear disgrace.”

The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the great glory of Raphael, and he was sent to heal the two of them: to remove the white films from Tobit; to give Sarah of Raguel to Tobias the son of Tobit as a wife; and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for it fell upon Tobias to inherit her. At that same time Tobit returned and entered his house, and Sarah of Raguel came down from her upstairs room.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 4:1-6:9

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On that day Tobit remembered the silver he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said to himself, “I requested death for myself. Why do I not call my son Tobias to make this known to him before I die?”

So he summoned him and said, “My son, if I die, bury me, but do not disregard your mother. Honor her all the days of your life. Do what is pleasing to her, but do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she experienced many dangers for you while you were in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in the same grave. My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not desire to sin or to disobey His commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing. For if you walk in the truth, you will be successful in your works. Do almsgiving from your possessions to all who do righteousness. When you do almsgiving, do not let your eye be envious. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, so the face of God will not be turned away from you. Do almsgiving based on the quantity of your possessions. If you possess only a few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. You are storing up a good treasure for yourself in the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers us from death and prevents us from entering into the darkness. Indeed, almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

“My son, guard yourself from all fornication, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers. Do not take a foreign woman who is not from the tribe of your father, for we are sons of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers from of old. Remember, my son, that all these took wives from among their brothers and were blessed in their children. Their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brothers and do not be arrogant in your heart against your brothers, the sons and daughters of your people. Take a wife for yourself from them, for arrogance brings destruction and great disorder, and in such worthlessness there is loss and great defect. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

“Do not keep overnight the wages of any man who works for you, but pay him immediately. If you serve God, He will pay you. Give heed to yourself, my son, in all your works, and be disciplined in all your conduct. What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine unto a state of drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness become your traveling companion. From your bread, give to him who is hungry, and from your clothing, give to the naked. If you have more than you need, do almsgiving, and do not let your eye envy the almsgiving when you do it. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but do not give it to sinners.

“Seek counsel from every sensible man, and do not treat any useful advice with contempt. At every opportunity bless the Lord God, but more than this ask that your ways may become straight, and that all your paths and purposes may prosper. For not every nation has understanding. But the Lord Himself gives all that is good, and as He desires He humbles whomever He will. Now my son, let none of my commandments be removed from your heart.

“Now let me point out to you the ten talents of silver I entrusted to Gabael the son of Gabrias, in Rages of Media. Do not fear, my son, that we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God. Stay away from every sin, and do what is pleasing before Him.”

Tobias answered him and said, “O father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how will I be able to obtain the silver, for I do not know him?” Then he gave him the record of the debt and said to him, “Find for yourself a man who will travel with you, and I will pay him his wages as long as I remain alive. Now go and obtain the silver.”

Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel. But he did not know it. So Tobias said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages of Media? Are you acquainted with those places?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you. I am acquainted with the roadways and I have lodged with our brother Gabael.” Tobias said to him, “Wait for me and I will tell my father.” He said to him, “Do so, but do not delay.”

So he went to his father and said, “Behold, I have found someone who will go with me.” But his father said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is trustworthy enough to go with you.” So he invited him, and Raphael came in. They greeted one another cordially.

Tobit then said to him, “Brother, to what tribe and kindred do you belong?” Raphael responded, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a hired man to go with your son?” Tobit replied, “Brother, I wish to know your people and your name.” Then he said, “I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the Great, one of your relatives.” So Tobit said to him, “You are most welcome, my brother. Do be not angry with me for seeking to learn of your tribe and your family. As it turns out, you are a brother of mine from a good and upright family. For I knew Ananias and Jonathan, the sons of Shemiah the Great, since we would journey in common to Jerusalem to worship and to offer the firstborn and the tenth of our harvest. They were not led astray in the deception of our brothers. My brother, you are from a good root.

“But tell me, what shall I give you as wages? A drachma a day and expenses for you and my son? I will even add more to your pay, if you both return in good health.” Thus they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobias, “Prepare for the journey, and may it be prosperous.” So his son prepared the things for the journey. Then his father said to him, “Go with this man, and may the God who dwells in heaven prosper your journey. May His angel journey with you.” They both departed, and the young man’s dog went with them.

But Anna his mother wept and said to Tobit, “Why have you sent our son away, or is he not the staff of our hands when he goes in and out before us? Do not attain silver upon silver, but may it be dirt compared to our son. For as he was given to us to live by the Lord, this is sufficient for our existence.” Tobit said to her, “My sister, do not be concerned. He shall return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey shall be prosperous. He will return in good health.” So she ceased weeping.

They went on the journey and came to the Tigris River. So they spent the evening there. The young man went down to wash himself, and a fish jumped up from the river and was determined to swallow the young man. The angel said to him, “Take hold of the fish.” So the young man grabbed the fish and put it on the bank. Then the angel said to him, “Cut open the fish. Take the heart, the liver, and the gall and put them in a safe place.” The young man did as the angel commanded him. Then they cooked the fish and ate it.

After this, they traveled together until they came near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, what is the purpose of the liver, the heart, and the gall of the fish?” He replied, “If a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, the heart and the liver must be used to make smoke before the man or woman, and that person will never be troubled again. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man who has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 6:10-9:6

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As they came near Rages, the angel said to the young man, “Brother, we will spend the night with Raguel. He is your relative and with him is his only child, a daughter named Sarah. I will speak for her that she might be given to you as a wife, because her inheritance belongs to you; for you alone are from her people. The girl is beautiful and she is sensible.

“So now listen to me, for I will speak to her father. When we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding. For I know that Raguel cannot give her to any other man according to the rule of Moses, or he will be subject to death. Thus it is proper that you receive the inheritance rather than another man.”

Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, I have heard the girl was given seven husbands, and they all perished in the bridal chamber. Now I am the only son of my father, and I fear for myself lest, entering the bridal chamber, I may die even as those before me. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone except those who approach her. Now I fear for myself lest I die and bring the life of my father and mother down into their tomb with grief and sorrow upon me. They have no other son who will bury them.”

But the angel said to him, “Do you not remember the words your father commanded you, to take a wife for yourself from among your people? Now listen to me, brother, for she will be a wife to you. As for the demon, have no concern, for this night she will be given to you as a wife. If you enter the bridal chamber, you will take with you ashes of incense, and lay some of it on the heart and liver of the fish. Then you will make smoke, and the demon will smell it and flee and never return. When you approach her, both of you will rise up and cry out to the merciful God. He will save you and be merciful. Do not fear for yourself, for she has been prepared for you from of old. You will save her and she will go with you. I believe that you will have children by her.”

As Tobias heard these words, he loved her and his soul was very much united to her.

Then they went to Ecbatana and came to the house of Raguel. Sarah went ahead to meet them, and after they greeted one another, she escorted them into the house. Raguel said to Edna his wife, “How the young man resembles my cousin Tobit!” Then Raguel asked them, “Where are you from, brothers?” They answered, “We are from the sons of Naphtali who are captives in Nineveh.” Then he said to them, “Do you know Tobit our brother?” They responded, “We know him.” Then he asked, “Is he in good health?” They answered, “He is alive and in good health.” Tobias then added, “He is my father.”

Raguel jumped up and kissed him and wept. He blessed him and said to him, “You are the son of a good and noble man!” But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept. Edna his wife and Sarah his daughter also wept, and they received them eagerly. And they killed a ram from the sheep and set many dishes before them.

Then Tobias said to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak about what you said on the way, and let the matter be completed.” So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, “Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting for you to marry my child. However, I must tell you the truth. I gave my daughter to seven men, and when they went in to her, they died during the night. But for now, be glad!” But Tobias said, “I will not eat anything until after you establish an agreement with me.” So Raguel said, “Receive her according to the decree, for you are her relative and she is yours. The merciful God will prosper you in what is good.”

So he called Sarah his daughter, and taking her by the hand, he gave her to be a wife for Tobias. Then he said, “Behold, receive her according to the decree of Moses, and bring her before your father.” He then blessed them and summoned his wife Edna. She took a scroll and wrote out the agreement. They sealed it, and then they began to eat.

After this, Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, “Sister, prepare the other room and lead her into it.” She did as he said and led her there. Then Sarah wept, but Edna understood the tears of her daughter and said to her, “Be courageous, my child. May the Lord of heaven and earth give you grace instead of this sorrow of yours. Be courageous, my daughter.”

When they finished dining, they led Tobias to her. As he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon the embers of the incense and made smoke. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled to the upper parts of Egypt, and there the angel bound him. While both were enclosed in the room, Tobias rose up from the bed and said, “Arise, sister, and let us pray that the Lord will have mercy upon us.” So Tobias began to pray, saying:

“Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and blessed is Your holy and glorious name unto the ages. The heavens and all Your creatures bless You. You made Adam and gave him Eve as a helper, his wife as a support. From them the seed of mankind came to be. You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Us make a helper for him like himself.’ O Lord, I now take this my sister as my wife, not on account of fornication, but in truth. Command that she and I may have mercy, and in this grow old together.”

And with him she said, “Amen.” Then both fell asleep for the night.

But Raguel rose up and went outside and dug a grave, saying, “He, too, may have died.” Raguel then went back into his house and said to his wife Edna, “Send one of the maids and let her see if indeed Tobias is alive. If he is not, let us bury him that no one may know.” So the maid went to the door, and when she opened it she found both of them sleeping. She came out and told the two of them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying:

“Blessed are You, the God, with every pure and holy blessing. Your holy ones and all Your creatures bless You. All Your angels and Your chosen ones bless You unto all the ages. Blessed are You, for You have made me glad, and it did not turn out for me as I suspected. Rather, You did with us according to Your abundant mercy. Blessed are You, for You had mercy on our two only children. O Lord, show them mercy, and complete their life in health and with gladness and mercy.”

Then he ordered his household servants to fill in the grave.

After this he provided a wedding feast for them lasting fourteen days. Before the time of the wedding feast was over, Raguel swore an oath and said to Tobias, “You are not to leave from here unless the two of you stay the fourteen days of the wedding feast. At that time take half of my belongings and go in good health to your father. The remainder will be yours when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant and two camels with you and journey to Rages of Media. Find Gabael and bring the silver back to me and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn an oath for me not to go away. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay much longer he will be very distressed.” Then Raphael went and spent the night with Gabael, and gave him the handwritten receipt. So Gabael brought the small sealed bags and gave them to him. They both rose early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. Then Tobias blessed his wife.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 10:1-11:19

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit his father was counting each day. But when the days needed to complete the journey ended and they had not returned, he asked, “Has he perhaps been dishonored? Or has Gabael died and no one gave him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife told him, “The young man has perished. That is why he is delayed.” Then she began to weep for him and said, “Nothing matters to me, my child, the light of my eyes, for I permitted you to go.” So Tobit said to her, “Be silent and have no more thoughts about it. He is in good health.”

She replied to him, “You be quiet. Do not deceive me. My child has perished.” Then throughout the day she went outside to the road by which he departed, and during the day she did not eat bread. At night she did not cease lamenting for her son Tobias until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were over, the days Raguel swore him to celebrate there.

Then Tobias said to Raguel, “Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope they will see me.” But his father-in-law said to him, “Stay with me, and I will send messengers to your father. They will make clear to him how you are doing.” But Tobias said, “No indeed. On the contrary, send me back to my father.”

Then Raguel arose and gave Sarah his wife to him, and half of his belongings in servants, cattle, and silver. Then he blessed them and sent them on their way, saying, “May the God of heaven prosper you, my children, before the day I die.” To his daughter he said, “Honor your husband’s mother and father, for they are now your parents. Let me hear a good report of you,” and he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, “My beloved brother, may the Lord of heaven bring you back and grant me to see your children from my daughter Sarah, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Behold, I am entrusting my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her.” With this, Tobias went on his way blessing God that He had prospered his journey. Then he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He traveled until they approached Nineveh. Here Raphael said to Tobias, “My brother, are you not aware of how you left your father? Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house. Take the gall of the fish in your hand.” So they proceeded, and the dog followed behind them.

Meanwhile Anna sat gazing upon the road for her boy. She perceived that he was coming and said to the father, “Behold, your son is coming, and the man traveling with him!”

Raphael said, “I know that the eyes of your father will open. Rub the gall on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you.”

Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, “I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!” So they both wept. Then Tobit came out of the door. He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, “Father, take courage!” Then as his eyes stung, he rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, “Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son.” His son went in rejoicing and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit rejoiced and blessed God as he went to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh. But those who saw him as he walked along were amazed that he could see. Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. Then as Tobit drew near to meet Sarah, his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, “May you be in good health, my daughter! Blessed is God who brought you to us, and blessed are your father and your mother.”

So there was rejoicing among all his brethren in Nineveh. Even Ahikar and his nephew Nadab came, for the wedding feast for Tobias was kept with gladness for seven days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 12:1-14:15

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit summoned his son Tobias and said to him, “My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you, and we must add to them.” He replied to him, “My father, it is no harm for me to give him half of what I brought. For he brought me safely to you, healed my wife, and brought me the silver. Likewise he healed you.” The elderly man replied, “He more than earned it.” So he called the angel and said to him, “Take half of everything you brought.”

Then Raphael secretly called the two of them, and said to them, “Bless God and give Him thanks. Ascribe greatness to Him and give thanks in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt His name. Make known the words of God’s works honorably and do not delay to give thanks to Him. It is noble to keep hidden the secret of a king, but glorious to unveil the works of God. Do good, and evil will not find you. Prayer is good with fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A few prayers with righteousness are better than many with wrongdoing. It is better to do almsgiving than to lay up gold. For almsgiving rescues one from death, and it will wash away every sin. Those who do almsgiving and are righteous will be full of life. But those who sin are enemies of their own life.

“I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I did say that it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayer before the Holy One. When you also buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. Then too, when you did not hesitate to stand up and leave your dinner so as to depart and care for the dead, your doing what is good did not escape me; but I was with you. Now God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who report the prayers of the saints and who enter before the glory of the Holy One.”

The two of them were troubled and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid, for peace shall be with you. But bless God forever. For I did not come of my own good will, but rather by the will of our God. Therefore bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you I did not eat or drink; but you were seeing a vision. Now give thanks to God, because I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that was accomplished.”

Then they stood up, but no longer saw him. They acknowledged the great and wondrous works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit with exceeding joy wrote a prayer, saying:

“Blessed is God

Who lives unto the ages,

And blessed is His kingdom,

For He scourges, and is merciful;

He brings down into Hades,

And leads up.

There is no one who will escape His hand.

Give thanks to Him before the nations,

O children of Israel,

For He scattered us among them.

Make known His greatness there;

Exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

For He is our Lord and God;

He is our Father unto all the ages.

He will scourge us for our wrongdoings,

But He will again have mercy

And gather us from all the nations,

Wherever you were dispersed among them.

If you return to Him with all your heart

And with all your soul,

To do the truth before Him,

Then He will turn to you

And not hide His presence from you.

Behold for yourself what He will do for you,

And give thanks to Him fully with the organ of speech.

Bless the Lord of righteousness,

And exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity, I give thanks to Him,

And make known His might and majesty to a nation of sinners.

Be converted, you sinners,

And do righteousness before Him.

Who knows if He will desire you

And have mercy on you?

I exalt my God,

And my soul exalts the King of heaven

And will rejoice exceedingly in His majesty.

Let all speak of His majesty

And give thanks to Him in Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,

He will scourge you for the deeds of your sons,

But He will again show mercy to the sons of the righteous.

Give thanks to the Lord with goodness

And bless the King of the ages,

That His tabernacle may be restored again to you in joy.

May He rejoice in you, the captives,

And may He love those who are distressed among you

Unto all generations forever.

Many Gentiles will come from afar

To the name of the Lord God,

Bearing gifts in their hands

And offerings to the King of heaven.

Generations of generations will offer You joyful worship.

Cursed are all who hate You;

Blessed are all who love You forever.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for the children of the righteous,

For they will be gathered together

And will bless the Lord of the righteous.

Blessed are those who love You.

They will rejoice in Your peace.

Blessed are the many who grieved over all Your scourges,

For they will rejoice when they see all Your glory

And will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great King.

For Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald,

And her walls with precious stones,

And her towers and battlements with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be paved

With beryl, onyx, and stones from Ophir.

All her streets will proclaim, ‘Alleluia!’

And will give praise, saying,

‘Blessed is God, who exalted you unto all the ages.’”

Then Tobit ceased giving thanks.

He was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, and eight years later he regained it. Tobit did almsgiving, and continued to fear the Lord God, and gave thanks to Him. He grew very old, and called his son and his son’s sons, and said, “My son, take your sons. Behold, I have grown old, and I am departing from this life. Depart to Media, my son, for I trust all the words Jonah the prophet spoke concerning Nineveh, that it will be overthrown. But in Media there will be more peace for a time. For our brethren in the land will be dispersed in the earth from the good land. Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the house of God therein will be burned up. It shall be desolate for a time.

“But God will again have mercy on them, and He will return them to the land. They will build the house, but not as it was before, until the times of the age are fulfilled. After this, they will return from the captivity and build Jerusalem honorably. The house of God within her will be built as a glorious building for every generation forever, as the prophets said concerning her. All the Gentiles shall return to truly fear the Lord God. They shall bury their idols in the earth, and all the Gentiles will bless the Lord. His people will offer thanks to God, and the Lord will exalt His people. All who love the Lord God in truth and righteousness will rejoice. They will show mercy to our brethren.

“So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since what the prophet Jonah said will doubtless come to pass. But keep the law and the ordinances. Be merciful and righteous, that it may be well with you. Bury me decently and your mother with me, but lodge no longer in Nineveh. My son, observe what Aman did to Ahikar who reared him, how he led him from light into darkness, and how greatly he repaid him. Indeed Ahikar was saved, but as for that man, he was repaid with retribution and descended into the darkness. Manasseh did almsgiving and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap and perished. Now then, my children, observe what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers us.”

After he said these things, his soul departed as he lay on his bed. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and Tobias buried him gloriously. When Anna died, he buried her with his father. Then Tobias departed with his wife and his children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. He grew old honorably and buried the parents of his wife most respectfully. They inherited their estate and that of Tobit his father.

Tobias died at Ecbatana of Media when he was one hundred and twenty-seven years old. Before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, taken by Nebuchadnezzar and Ahasuerus. Thus before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 50:9, 10

A Psalm of David.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop,

and I will be cleansed;

You will wash me,

and I will be whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness;

my bones that were humbled will rejoice.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:14-21

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

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:12-17

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:9-17

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

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

Now, when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them, so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirita had not yet come upon any of them. They had only been baptized in the Name of Christ Jesus. Then, Peter and Johnb laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 33:6, 5a

A Psalm of David.

Come to Him and be enlightened,

and your faces will never be ashamed.

I sought the Lord and He heard me.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:1-13

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

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

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

Nicodemus asked him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can heenter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born [anew]?”

Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How can these things be?”

Jesus replied and said, “You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. Glory be to God forever.

### Saturday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 78:8bc, 9ab

A Psalm of David.

Let Your compassion overtake us quickly,

for we have become very poor.

Help us, O God, our Saviour,

… for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!”

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes!”

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or, ‘Get up, and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (then he said to the paralytic), “Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house.”

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-7

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

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:13-21

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

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-26

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

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

When the south wind began to blow softly, they thought that their goal was within reach. Having lifted the anchor, they sailed along [the coast of]

Crete, close to shore. But before long, a violent wind called ‘the northeastern’ rushed down from the island! The ship was caught and could not face the wind. We had to yield to the wind and the ship was driven along. Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

As the men had been for a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, “Sirs, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete; then you would have avoided this injury and loss. Now, I encourage you to keep your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I offer divine service stood by me. He said: ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar. Behold, God has granted you [the life] all those who sail with you.’ Therefore, sirs, be of good cheer! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me. However, we must run aground on some island.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 31:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

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

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:46-52

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

Then, they arrived in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving the city with his disciples and a great crowd, the son of Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus cried out even more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stood still and said, “Call him.”

They called the blind man and said to him, “Cheer up! Get up! He is calling you!”

Having thrown his cloak aside, he got up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man replied, “Rabboni, that I may see again!”

Jesus said to him, “Be on your way! Your faith has made you well.” Immediately, the man received his sight and followed him along the way. Glory be to God forever.

## The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:3, 5

A Psalm of David.

You tested my heart when You visited me in the night;

You tried me by fire,

and found nothing unjust in me.

Restore my steps in Your paths,

that my feet may not slip.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:22-35

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

Jesus was on his way through cities and villages, teaching and traveling onward to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are those who are saved [only] a few?”

Jesus replied, “Do your utmost to enter in by the narrow door! For I tell you that many will try to enter, but they will not be able. Once the master of the house has risen up and shut the door, you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying: ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But then, he will answer, ‘I do not know you or where you come from!’ Then you will start saying, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets!’ But the master will reply, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from! Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.’ In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. People will come from the east, west, north, and south, and they will have a place in the Kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!”

Jesus replied, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside ofJerusalem.’

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name ofthe Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 25:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;

test my heart and mind in fire.

For Your mercy is before my eyes,

and I delight in Your truth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 23:1-39

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

Jesus then spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses. Therefore, whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but do not imitate their works; for they preach and [yet] do not act accordingly. Indeed, they bind heavy burdens that are dreadful to bear and put them on people’s shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them. Instead, they do all their works be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad, they enlarge the fringes of their garments, and love the place of honor at feasts. They love the best seats in the synagogues, the greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ by people. But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers. Call no man on the earth ‘your father’, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven. And do not be called ‘teacher’, for one is your teacher, the Christ. But the one who is the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, ‘If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but inside, they are full of greed and excess. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and platter, so that the outside may also become clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood ofthe prophets.’ Therefore, you testify to yourselves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:5-17

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

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:27-37

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

On the fourteenth night, at about midnight, as we were driven back and forth in the Adriatic Sea, the sailors surmised that they were approaching some land. They measured the depth of water and found twenty fathoms. A little while later, they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on rocky ground, they let down four anchors from the stern, hoping to hold steady until daylight. Trying escape from the ship, sailors lowered the lifeboat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow. Paul then said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved!” So the soldiers cut away the ropes of the lifeboat and let it fall off.

As the day was coming on, Paul begged them all to take some food, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that you wait and continue fasting, taking nothing. Now, I urge you to take some food! This is for your safety, and not a hair will perish from any of your heads.” When he had said this and taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all. Then he broke it and began to eat. At this, they all cheered up and also took food. In all, we were two hundred seventy-six souls on the ship.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:7abc, 1ab

A Psalm of David.

Hear me quickly, O Lord:

my spirit has failed.

Do not turn Your face from me,

O Lord, hear my prayer;

give ear to my supplication in Your truth.

Alleluia.

##### John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but [it was] in order that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva and anointed the blind man’s eyes with the mud. He then said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbors and those who saw that he had been blind before said, “Is this not the man who sat and begged?” Others were saying, “It is he!” Still others were saying, “He looks like him.”

The man said, “I am he!” Therefore, the people asked him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered, “A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.’ And so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they asked him, “Where is he?”

The man replied, “I do not know.”

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see!”

At this, some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was division among them. Therefore, they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

He said, “He is a prophet!”

The Jews did not believe [the report] about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of this man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, this person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age. Ask him!”

And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!”

At this, the man answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!”

Again, asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?”

Then they insulted him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

The man answered them, “How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

The man answered, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe!” and he worshiped Jesus.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see; and so that those who see may become blind.”

The Pharisees who were present heard these things, and they asked Jesus, “Are we also blind?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see!’ and therefore, your sin remains. Glory be to God forever.

### Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 40:2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 8:22-26

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

When he arrived at Bethsaida, people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand and brought him out of the village. He spit on his eyes, laid his hands on the man, and asked him if he saw anything.

The man looked up and said, “I see people! I see them like trees walking!”

Again, Jesus laid his hands on the man’s eyes who then looked [around] intently. His sight was then restored and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not enter into the village and do not tell anyone in the village.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:1-17

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

A wise son makes his father glad,

But a son without discernment is a grief to his mother.

Treasures do not benefit lawless men,

But righteousness delivers from death.

The Lord will not let the soul of the righteous man starve,

But He overthrows the life of the ungodly.

Poverty humbles a man,

But the hands of courageous men enrich others.

A son who is instructed will be wise,

And he will use a man without discernment as a servant.

A son with understanding is kept safe from the heat,

But a lawless son is blasted by the wind at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man,

But untimely grief will cover the mouth of the ungodly.

The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

But the name of an ungodly man is extinguished.

The wise man in heart will receive the commandments,

But the man unguarded in speech will be overthrown in his perverseness.

He who walks in sincerity walks confidently,

But he who perverts his ways will be known.

He who winks his eyes deceitfully gathers grief for men,

But he who reproves boldly is a peacemaker.

A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man,

But the mouth of an ungodly man will hide destruction.

Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all who are not lovers of strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from his lips

Beats a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will hide perception,

But the mouth of a rash man approaches destruction.

The acquisition of riches is a fortified city,

But poverty is the destruction of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,

But the fruits of the ungodly produce sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 48:17-49:4

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

Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: “I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me.”

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, “The Lord delivered His servant Jacob.” If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. “There is no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

“Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time,” says the Lord. “He called My name from My mother’s womb. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow and covered Me in His quiver. He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 38:1b-36

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

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying:

“Who is this who hides counsel from Me,

And holds words in his heart

And thinks to conceal them from Me?

Gird your waist like a man;

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know.

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened,

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the stars were made

And all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?

“I shut up the sea with doors

When it burst forth and issued from the womb.

I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in mist.

I fixed My limit for it and set bars and doors.

I said, ‘This far you may come, but no further,

And here your waves must stop.’

“Did I order the morning light in your time,

And did the morning star see its appointed place,

To lay hold of the ends of the earth

And to shake the ungodly out of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground and form a living creature,

And set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

Have you removed light from the ungodly

And crushed the arm of the arrogant?

“Have you come upon the fountain of the sea

And walked in the tracks of the deep?

Do the gates of death open to you for fear,

And did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven?

Tell Me now, what is the extent of it?

“In what kind of land does the light dwell,

And what kind is the place of darkness?

If you would bring Me to their boundaries,

And also if you understand their paths,

Then I know you were born at that time,

And the number of your years is great.

“Have you come upon the storehouses of snow?

Have you seen the storehouses of hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of your enemies,

For the day of wars and battles?

From where does the frost proceed?

From where does the south wind scatter over the earth?

“Who prepared a course for the violent rain

Or a path for the thunders?

Who causes it to rain on a land where there is no man,

Or an uninhabited wilderness, where there is not a man in it,

To satisfy the untrodden and uninhabited land

And cause it to spring forth a crop of tender grass?

Who is the rain’s father,

And who has begotten the drops of dew?

From whose womb comes the ice,

And who has given birth to the frost in heaven,

Which descends like flowing water?

Who made firm the face of the abyss?

“Do you understand the band of the Pleiades,

And have you opened the fence of Orion?

Will you open up Mazzaroth in its season,

And the evening star with his rays?

Will you guide them?

Do you know the movements of heaven

Or the events which take place together under heaven?

“Will you call a cloud with your voice,

And will it obey you with a violent shower of much rain?

Can you send out lightnings, and they shall go?

They shall say to you, ‘What do you want?’

Who has given to women wisdom in weaving

Or knowledge of embroidery?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,

and glory, all you upright in heart.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.’

But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.’

He said, ‘I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father’s house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.’

But Abraham replied to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!’

But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

Then Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:10-15:2

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

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.’*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all. And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:5-13

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:22-31

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:12, 13

A Psalm of David.

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

And I will glorify Your Name forever,

for Your mercy towards me is great,

and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:31-47

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

If I bear witness about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who bears witness to me, and I know that the testimony by which he bears witness about me is true. You have sent [messengers] to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things so that you may be saved. John was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, because the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, they bear witness about me, that the Father has sent me. The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. You have never heard his voice at any time, and you have never seen his outward appearance. You do not have his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God’s love in yourselves. I have come in my Father’s Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?” Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:18-32

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

Instruction guards righteous ways of life,

But instruction incapable of criticism goes astray.

Righteous lips cover hatred,

But those who bring forth abuse are very lacking in discernment.

You will not escape sin by a multitude of words,

But you of discreet lips will be forbearing.

The tongue of a righteous man is silver tried in the fire,

But the heart of an ungodly man shall fail.

The lips of righteous men understand lofty things,

But men without discernment die in want.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man;

It enriches him, and grief of heart will not be added to it.

A man without discernment does evil things with laughter,

But wisdom gives birth to discernment in a man.

The ungodly man is carried about in destruction,

But the desire of the righteous man is acceptable.

The ungodly man is destroyed by the passing storm,

But the righteous man turns aside and shall be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is a lawless woman to the men who use her.

The fear of the Lord increases days,

But the years of the ungodly will be shortened.

Gladness continues for the righteous,

But the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is the stronghold of a holy man,

But destruction is for those who work evil.

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 49:6b-10

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

\*[Indeed He says, ‘It is a great thing for You to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the dispersion of Israel.]\* Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: “Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord’s sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, ‘Go forth,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Reveal yourselves.’ They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener, found in Ottawa and Southern United States.

##### Job 38:37-39:30

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

Who can number the clouds by wisdom,

And who bowed heaven down to earth?

For it is spread like a cloud of dust,

And I have joined it together as one hewn stone to another.

“Will you hunt prey for the lions

Or satisfy the lives of the serpents?

They fear in their dens,

And live in the forests, and lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?

For its young ones wander

And cry to the Lord in search of food.

“Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young,

And do you mark when the deer gives birth?

Do you number the full months of childbearing,

And have you relieved their pangs?

Have you reared their young without fear,

And have you sent away their pangs?

Their young ones will break forth;

They will be multiplied with offspring;

They depart and do not return.

Who set the wild donkey free?

Who loosed his bonds?

I made the wilderness his dwelling

And the salt lands his house.

He scorns the great multitude of the city;

He does not heed the blame of the tax collector.

He will survey the mountains as his pasture,

And he seeks out every green thing.

Will the wild ox be willing to serve you?

Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind his yoke with ropes,

Or will he plow furrows for you in the field?

Do you trust him because his strength is great?

Or will you commit your works to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your seed

And gather it to your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork’s?

For the falcon leaves her eggs on the ground

And warms them in the dust.

She has forgotten that a foot will scatter them,

Or that wild animals will trample them.

She hardens herself against her young ones

As though they were not hers.

She labors in vain without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom

And did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high,

She scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with a mane?

Have you put on him a suit of armor

And made his breast glorious with courage?

He paws exultingly in the valley

And goes forth with strength into the plain.

He mocks at battle when he sees it,

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against him,

And his rage would destroy the earth.

He will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

For at the blast of the trumpet he says, ‘Good! Well done!’

He smells the battle from afar with its leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk remain steady by your understanding,

And spread its rigid wings looking toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command,

And the vulture remain sitting over its nest

On the crag of a hidden rock?

From there it spies out the prey;

Its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones roll themselves in blood;

And where the slain are, immediately they are found.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 5:1-15

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not set your heart on your possessions,

And do not say, “I am independent.”

Do not follow yourself and your strength

So as to walk in the desires of your heart;

And do not say, “Who will be lord over me?”

For the Lord will surely punish you.

Do not say, “I sinned, so what happened to me?”

For the Lord is patient.

Do not be so confident of atonement

That you add sin to sin;

And do not say, “His compassion is great;

He will atone for the multitude of my sins,”

For both mercy and wrath come from Him;

And His anger rests on sinners.

Do not delay to turn to the Lord,

And do not put it off from day to day;

For suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come forth,

And in the day of vengeance, you will perish.

Do not set your heart on dishonest wealth,

For it will profit you nothing in the day of distress.

Do not winnow with every wind

And do not follow every road;

For a double-tongued sinner is of such a kind.

Be established in your understanding

And let your word be consistent.

Be quick to listen

And give your answer with patience.

If you have understanding, answer your neighbor,

But if not, let your hand be over your mouth.

There is glory and dishonor in speech,

And a man’s tongue may cause him to fall.

Do not be called a slanderer,

And do not lie in ambush with your tongue;

For shame awaits a thief,

And a grievous condemnation will come upon

A double-tongued man.

In a great or in a small matter, do not go wrong.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 37:19, 20a

A Psalm of David.

For I confess my iniquity,

and I am anxious about my sin.

But my enemies live, and are stronger than I.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:1-10

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

Jesus told the disciples, “It is impossible that no occasions of stumbling should come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for such a person to have a millstone hung around the neck and be thrown into the sea, rather than to cause any of these little ones to stumble. Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:5-17

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

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even

more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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

Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation\*[; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him]\*.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24

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

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 50:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin,

for I know my iniquity,

and my sin is ever before me.

Alleluia.

##### John 12:36b-43

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

After Jesus had said this, he left and hid from them. But even though he had performed so many signs in front of them, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaias the prophet:

*Lord, who has believed our report?*

*To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

For this reason, they could not believe, for Isaias said elsewhere:

*He has blinded their eyes and he hardened their heart,*

*lest they should see with their eyes,*

*and perceive with their heart,*

*and would turn,*

*and I would heal them.*

Isaias said these things when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Still, even many among the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it [openly], so that they would not be put out of the synagogue, for they loved human praise more than God’s praise. Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:32-11:11

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

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

The lips of righteous men distill grace,

But the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is acceptable to Him.

Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor,

But the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,

But the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy.

Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths,

But ungodliness embraces wrongdoing.

The righteousness of upright men delivers them,

But lawless men are taken to their destruction.

When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish,

But the boast of the ungodly perishes.

A righteous man escapes from a snare,

But the ungodly man is handed over in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly,

But the perception of the righteous is prosperous.

A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous,

But it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.

A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt,

But a man of discernment keeps quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 58:1-11a

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

“Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’ Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast,” says the Lord; “rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, ‘Behold, I am here.’ If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. Your bones shall be enriched, and you shall be like a well-watered garden and like a spring of water that does not fail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 40:1-41:26

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

Moreover the Lord God answered Job and said:

“Will anyone pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

He who rebukes God will answer for it.”

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“Why am I still judged and admonished,

Even if I rebuke the Lord, hear such things, and am nothing?

But what answer will I give to these things?

I will put my hand over my mouth.

I have spoken once.

I will not do so a second time.”

The Lord yet answered Job out of the cloud and said:

“No rather, gird up your waist like a man,

For I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Do you not reject My judgment?

Do you think I have dealt with you in any other way

Than might appear to you to be righteous?

Have you an arm like the Lord’s?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now majesty and power,

And clothe yourself with glory and honor.

Send forth messengers with wrath

And humble every insolent man.

Extinguish the arrogant man

And consume at once the ungodly.

Hide them together in the earth

And fill their faces with disgrace.

Then I will also admit

That your own right hand can save you.

“But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

Behold now, his strength is in his loins,

And his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;

His nerves are tightly knit.

His ribs are like ribs of bronze,

And his backbone like bars of iron.

This is the ruler of the Lord’s creation,

Made to be mocked at by His angels.

When he goes up to a rough mountain,

He causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

1He lies under trees of every kind,

Alongside the papyrus, and reed, and bulrush.

The great trees shade him with their branches;

So do the branches of the willow.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

He is confident, though the Jordan beats against his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes,

Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Will you catch the serpent with a hook

And put a halter about his nose?

Or will you fasten a ring in his nose

Or pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he speak to you in prayer,

Softly with the voice of a suppliant?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird,

Or will you cage him as a sparrow for a child?

Do the nations feed upon him?

Will they apportion him among the nations of the Phoenicians?

All the ships come together would not be able

To bear the mere skin of his tail,

Or carry his head with fishing vessels.

Once you lay your hand on him,

Remembering the battle waged by his mouth,

Let it not be done again.

“Have you not seen him?

Have you not wondered at what has been said of him?

Do you not fear because I am prepared?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me and endure,

Since everything under heaven is Mine?

“I will not be silent because of him,

Though because of his power, one shall pity his antagonist.

Who will remove his outer coat?

Who may enter within the fold of his breastplate?

Who will open the doors of his face,

With his terrible teeth all around?

His entrails are as brazen plates,

And the texture of his skin as a symrite stone.

One part clings to another

So no air comes between them.

A man will be joined to his brother.

They stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light,

And his eyes are like the appearance of the morning star.

Out of his mouth go burning lights;

Sparks of fire shoot out.

Smoke goes out of his nostrils

As from a boiling pot with fire of coals.

His breath kindles coals,

And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Strength dwells in his neck,

And destruction runs before him.

The muscles of his body are joined together.

They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone,

And it stands like an unyielding anvil.

When he turns, he is a terror

To the four-footed wild animals which leap upon the earth.

Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail;

Nor does spear or javelin.

He regards iron as straw,

And bronze as rotten wood.

The arrow cannot wound him;

The sling-stone becomes like grass to him.

Hammers are regarded as straw,

And he laughs at the threat of javelins.

His bed is like sharp skewers,

And all the gold of the sea under him

Is like a great amount of clay.

He makes the deep boil like a brazen pot,

And he regards the sea like a pot of ointment.

The lowest part of the deep is as a captive.

He reckons the deep as his walking range.

On earth there is nothing like him,

Who was made to be mocked at by My angels.

He beholds every high thing;

He is king over all that are in the waters.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 56:2

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,

for my soul trusts in You;

and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings

until iniquity passes away.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:28-35

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

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying: ‘This man began to build and he was not able to finish!’ Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with twenty thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-13

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

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

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:23-26

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 50:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin,

for I know my iniquity,

and my sin is ever before me.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:35-45

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

Jesus told them, “I am the bread of life! The one who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet, you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who is coming to me I will in no way reject. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but [to do] the will of the one who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me: that of all he has given me, I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and this one I will raise up on the last day.”

At this, the Jews began to murmur concerning him, because he had said, “I am the bread which came down out of heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

Therefore, Jesus answered them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and this one I will raise up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Therefore, everyone who hears from the Father and has learned comes to me. Glory be to God forever.

### Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 11:11-26

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

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves,

But there is salvation in much counsel.

A wicked man does evil whenever he meets a righteous man,

And he hates the sound of stability.

A thankful woman raises up glory to her husband,

But a throne of dishonor is a woman who hates righteousness.

Lazy men are in need of wealth,

But courageous men support themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his soul,

But an unmerciful man utterly destroys his body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous works,

But the seed of the righteous is a reward of truth.

A righteous son is begotten unto life,

But the persecution of an ungodly man is unto death.

Perverse ways are an abomination to the Lord,

But all who are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him.

He who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished,

But he who sows righteousness will receive a faithful reward.

Like a ring in the nose of a wild swine,

So is beauty to an evil-minded woman.

Every desire of the righteous is good,

But the hope of the ungodly is destruction.

There are those who sow their own things and produce more things,

And there are those who gather but have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

But an angry man is not graceful.

May the one who hoards grain leave it to the nations,

But may blessing be upon the head of the one who shares it.

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 65:8-16a

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

Thus says the Lord: “As the grape shall be found in a cluster, and they shall say, ‘Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing from the Lord in it,’ so shall I do for the sake of him who serves Me. For his sake I will not destroy them all. I will bring forth the seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah, and they shall inherit My holy mountain. My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there. There shall be in the forest a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for the resting place of herds for My people who sought Me. But you are those who forsook Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill a drink-offering to Fortune. I will deliver you to the sword, and all of you shall fall in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed.”

Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:1-6

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

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know You can do all things,

And nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he who hides counsel from You?

Who keeps back his words

And thinks to hide them from You?

Who will tell me what I knew not,

Things too great and wonderful, which I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

I will ask You, and please teach Me.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I depreciate myself, and I waste away.

I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 6:8-7:20 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I shall encamp in this specific place.” Then Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, saying, “Be careful not to pass this place, for the Syrians are hidden there.” In response, the king of Israel sent someone to this place which Elisha warned about, and thereby kept careful watch over the Syrians on more than two occasions. As a result, the king of Syria became troubled as to what was happening. He called his officers and said to them, “Will you not tell me who gives advance warning of our movements to the king of Israel?” And one of his officers said, “No one, O lord my king. It is Elisha the prophet in Israel that tells the words you speak in your bedroom to the king of Israel.” So he said, “Go, see where this man is, and I will send and kidnap him.”

They sent word to him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” So he sent horses and chariots and a great army that arrived at night to surround the city. When Elisha’s servant arose early and went out, the army was there, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “O master, what shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are greater in number than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see.” And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he was now able to see, and he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then the Syrians marched toward him, and Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike these people with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. So Elisha said to them, “This is not the city nor is this the way to it. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you seek.” But he led them away to Samaria. So it came to be when they arrived in Samaria, Elisha said, “Lord, open their eyes and let them see.” Thus the Lord completely restored their ability to see. And behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “O father, shall I not strike to kill them?” But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you took captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their lord.” Then he prepared a great feast for them, and after they ate and drank, he dismissed them and they departed to their lord. So lightly armed raiding parties of Syrians no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it came to pass that after this, the son of Hadad king of Syria gathered all the troops of his army and went up and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed they besieged it even to the point where the value placed on the head of a donkey was fifty shekels of silver, and two quarts of dove droppings cost five shekels of silver. As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Save me, my lord, O king!” And he said, “If the Lord does not save you from the threshing floor or from the winepress, how can I save you?” Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give us your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I told her, ‘Give me your son so that we may eat him,’ but she hid her son.”

Now when the king heard the woman’s words, he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw that underneath his clothes he wore sackcloth on his body. Then he said, “God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha remains on him today.”

Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him, when the king sent a man ahead of him. But before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Do you see that this son of a murderer was sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and keep him on the outside of the door. Is that not the sound of his master’s feet behind him?” While yet talking with them, behold the messenger came down towards him; and the king said, “Listen! This evil is of the Lord, so why should I remain patient in the Lord?”

Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: ‘About this time tomorrow, at the gate of Samaria a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and for a shekel, two measures of barley.’ ” So the officer on whose hand the king relied retorted to Elisha and said, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven will make a downpour of rain, this event shall not happen.” And Elisha said, “Behold, you shall see this with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

Now at the entrance of the gate there were four leprous men. And one of them said to his neighbor, “Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, ‘Let us go into the city,’ and there is famine in the city, we will die there. And if we sit here in this place, then we will die. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall die.” So they rose in the darkness to head to the army camp of the Syrians. They entered the outskirts of the army camp and no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, the noises of a very great army. For the Lord made the army of Syria say to one another, “Look, the king of Israel hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” So they arose in the darkness and quietly fled for their lives, leaving their tents, their horses, and their donkeys at the campsite.

And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away from it silver and gold and clothing. Then they left and came back to enter another tent to take from there and to hide the spoils. And one said to the others, “This is not right. This day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent and wait until the light of morning, we will find wickedness in the city. Now come here! Let us enter the city and deliver this good news to the house of the king.” So they went and cried out with a loud voice toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, “We entered the army camp of Syria and behold, no one was there, not a man nor a human voice. The only things there were the tied-up horses and donkeys, and their tents, which they left intact.”

Then the gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the house of the king inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “Now I will inform you as to what the Syrians are doing. They know we are hungry. Therefore they went out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive and capture the city.’ ”

Then one of his servants answered and said, “Indeed! Let them now take five of the remaining horses, of all that remain of the multitude of Israel, and send them there to see.” Therefore they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent them after the king of Syria, saying, “Go and see.” And they went after them even to the Jordan. Indeed all along the way, the road was full of garments and vessels which the Syrians themselves cast away in the panic. So the messengers returned and brought word to the king. Then the people went out and plundered the army camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, true to the word of the Lord.

Now the king had appointed the officer, the one on whose hand the king relied, to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God said who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha said to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.” Then the officer had answered Elisha with this retort, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven should make a downpour of rain, this sort of thing would never happen.” Then Elisha had answered, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” And so it was in this way; for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 62:2

A Psalm of David.

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You;

My soul thirsts for You…

[that my flesh might blossom for You]

in a desolate, trackless and waterless land?

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 20:20-28

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

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking a certain thing of him. He said to her, “What do you want?”

She said to him, “Command that these, my two sons, may sit, one on your right hand, and one on your left hand, in your Kingdom.”

But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to him, “We are able!”

Jesus answered, “You will indeed drink my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with, but to sit on my right and on left hand is not mine to give! It is [reserved] for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard [about] this, they were upset with the two brothers.

However, Jesus called them together, and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and great ones make their authority felt. But it shall not be so among you! Instead, whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your servant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

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

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

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-24

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

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:23-26:6

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

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers!

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 121:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I was glad when they said to me,

“we will go to the house of the Lord.”

Our feet stood

in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:18-27

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

Then Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to him. They asked him, “Teacher, Moses wrote to us, ‘If a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife behind him but no children, his brother should take his wife, and raise up an offspring for his brother.’ There were seven brothers. The first took a wife, died, and left no offspring. The second [brother] took her and [also] died, leaving no children behind him. The third likewise; and so the seven [brothers] married her and left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For the seven [brothers] had her as a wife.”

Jesus answered them, “Is this not why you are mistaken, by not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God? For when people {will} rise from the dead, they do not marry or are given in marriage; instead, they are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead are raised, have not you read in the book of Moses (in the passage about the Bush), how God spoke to him, saying: ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living! This is why you are greatly misled.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Last Friday of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 49:33-50:26

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

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Now Joseph fell on his father’s face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.’ ” Then Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians.” Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph’s brothers saw their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him.” So they came to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ ” Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

So Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households.” Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart.

So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, “I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 11:26-12:24

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

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

He who trusts in riches, this man will fall,

But he who helps the righteous, this man will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

And a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment.

A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness,

But the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time.

If the righteous man is scarcely saved,

Then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

But he who hates correction is without discernment.

He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better,

But a lawless man will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by lawlessness,

But the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are judgments,

But the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are deceitful,

But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

If he does not turn, an ungodly man is destroyed,

But the houses of the righteous remain.

The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man,

But the slothful of heart are treated with contempt.

It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself

Than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

But the affections of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread,

But those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time

Shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

But the roots of the godly are in strongholds.

By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares,

But a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will show mercy,

But he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things,

And the recompense of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes,

But a wise man hearkens to counsels.

A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath,

But an astute man hides his own dishonor.

A righteous man declares his honesty openly,

But the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful.

There are those who wound with a sword as they speak,

But the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

But a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue.

There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things,

But those who counsel peace shall be glad.

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 66:10-24

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

“Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders and comforted on knees. Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord’s hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient.

For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger and His renunciation with a flame of fire. For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. “Those who purify and cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time,” says the Lord; “and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades, to the holy city of Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites,” says the Lord. “For just as the new heaven and the new earth which I make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your seed and your name remain. It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem,” says the Lord. “They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:7-17

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

So it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “You have sinned, you and your two friends, for you have not spoken before Me what is true, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you. For I will only accept him, but for his sake, I would have destroyed you; because you have not spoken what is true regarding my servant Job.” So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and He redeemed their sin for Job’s sake.

Then the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends, and He forgave their sin. But the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then all his brothers and all his sisters heard about everything that happened to him, and they came to him. So did all who knew him from the first. They ate food and drank with him and comforted him; and they wondered at all the Lord brought upon him. Each one gave him a lamb and four drachms’ weight of uncoined gold.

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first, Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia’s Horn. In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 97:4, 5, 6a

A Psalm of David.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing and rejoice, and sing psalms.

Make music to the Lord with a lyre,

with a lyre and the tune of a psalm.

With metal trumpets and the trumpet of the horn.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:20-37

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

Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them, “The Kingdom of God does not come with observation! Neither will people say, ‘Look, here!’ or, ‘Look, there!’ for behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Jesus told the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. People will tell you, ‘Look, here!’ or ‘Look, there!’ Do not go away or follow [them], for as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first, he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People ate, drank, got married, were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered into the ship; and the flood came, destroying them all. Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot: people ate, drank, bought, sold, planted and built. But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from the sky which destroyed them all. It will be the same in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, whoever is on the housetop, [having] his goods in the house, should not go down to take them away! Likewise, whoever is in the field should not return. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you that in that night, there will be two people in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. There will be two grinding grain together. One will be taken, and the other will be left.” Two will be in the field: one will be taken, and the other left.

In reply, the disciples asked him, “Where, Lord?”

He said to them, “Where the body is, there the eagles will also be assembled.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 3:1-4:5

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

But know that in the last days, troubled times will come. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful and unholy. [They will be] without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, no lovers of good, treacherous, stubborn, self-important, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having an appearance of godliness but having rejected its [inner] meaning. Stay away from these people too. Indeed, some of these creep into houses and captivate gullible women who are burdened with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Even as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, these people also oppose the truth. They are mentally corrupted and as far as the faith is concerned, they are rejected. But they will not go very far because their folly will be evident to all, as in the case of Jannes and Jambres.

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-16a

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

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

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

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:1-18

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

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

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

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

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

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

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

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

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

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

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

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 97:8b, 9

A Psalm of David.

The mountains will rejoice [before the Lord];

for He comes to judge the earth;

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with uprightness.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:31-35

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!”

Jesus replied, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.’

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name ofthe Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.