The Apostle Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle Readings of the Coptic Rite

No ISBN for this edition.

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# Great Lent

## The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

### Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:17-23

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

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and everincreasing wickedness, now offer your members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:38-47

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

Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

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

### Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:21-29

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

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

Now, I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body which is the Church. I have become her servant, according to God’s commission which was I received for you, in order to fulfill the word of God. This is the mystery which was hidden for ages and generations. But now, it has been revealed to his saints. To them, God was pleased to reveal the glorious generosity of this mystery among the Gentiles. This mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is what we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. This is what I also work for, struggling with his energy which is powerfully at work in me.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:30-34

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

In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

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

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

### Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:1-22

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

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called “uncircumcision” by what is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and member’s of God’s household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:12:20

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

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

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

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

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

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

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

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

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood.”

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

### The Feast of Nineveh

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-18

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

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:22-26

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

Indeed, Moses indeed said to the fathers, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brethren. You shall listen to him in all that he tells you. And it shall be that every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly cut off from among the people.’ In fact, all the prophets that have spoken, from Samuel to those who followed after [him], have also announced these days. You are the children of the prophets, and [children] of the covenant which God made with our fathers when he said to Abraham, ‘In your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up [to life] his servant Jesus, sent him to you first, in order to bless you as everyone of you turns away from his wicked ways.”

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers: what association is there between righteousness and wickedness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? What sharing is there between a believer and an unbeliever? What agreement can there be between God’s sanctuary and idols? For you are a sanctuary of the living God. Even as God said, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Therefore:

*‘Come out from among them, and be separate,’ says the Lord.*

*‘Touch no unclean thing.*

*I will receive you.c*

*I will be a Father to you.*

*You will be to me sons and daughters,’*

says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, so that we may bring [our] holiness to completion in the fear of God. Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter. And so, although I wrote to you, it was neither for the sake of the offender nor for the one offended, but so that your devotion to us might be revealed in the sight of God. Therefore, we have been comforted. In our comfort, we rejoiced all the more on account of Titus’s joy, because you had refreshed his spirit. I had boasted to him about you, and I was not disappointed! And just as we spoke all things to you in truth, likewise boasting to Titus [about you] was found to be the truth. His deep affection for you is even stronger as he remembers your obedience, how with fear and trembling you received him. I rejoice that concerning you, I can be confident in everything.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:1-14

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

After departing from them, we set sail and made a straight course to Cos. The next day, [we sailed] to Rhodes and from there to Patara. Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and continued our journey. When we came in sight of Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre where the ship was to unload her cargo. Since we found some disciples there, we stayed for seven days. Through the Spirit, these disciples told Paul that he should not go up to Jerusalem. When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

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

## The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham’s seed? So am I! Are they Christ’s servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:15-26

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

After these days, we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing an early disciple [named] Mnason of Cyprus, with whom we would be staying.

When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. The next day, Paul went with us to visit James, and all the presbyters were present. After greeting them, Paul reported in detail what God had worked among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard it, they glorified God. They told him, “You see, brother, that there are many thousands among the Jews who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to abandon Moses and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or to preserve the customs. What then? The Church must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come! Therefore, do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them, join in their purification rites, and pay for their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they shouldkeep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled

things, and from sexual immorality.”

So Paul took the men, and the next day, he purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

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

### Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions, for their women changed the natural function into what is against nature and the men likewise. They abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men, and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. Even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting. They have become filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are also full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; Knowing the ordinance of God, (that those who practice such things are worthy of death), they not only do these [very] things but also approve of those who practice them.

Therefore, you are without excuse, if you are judging! For in passing judgment on another, you condemn yourself, because you pass judgment and yet practice the same things. We know that the judgment of God is according to truth and against those who practice such things. Do you think that you will escape the judgment of God if you judge those who practice such things and yet does the same? Or do you despise the richesof God’s goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:19-28

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

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

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

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

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

### Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 9:14-29

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

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

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

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

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

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

*You are not my people,’*

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

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

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

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

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

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

As Isaias has said before:

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

*We would have become like Sodom,*

*And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-42

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

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

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

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

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

### Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansingfrom their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:9-20

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

I beg you therefore, be imitators of me. For this reason, I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every Church. Now, some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills! Then I will find out not so much what these arrogant people say, but what power they have. For the Kingdom of God is not in speech, but in power. What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and a kind as does not even occur among the Gentiles, [namely] that someone has his father’s wife! And you are arrogant! Should you not rather have mourned, so that whoever has done this would have been removed from among you? For I most certainly, as being absent in body but present in spirit, have already, as though I were present, judged the man who has done this thing! In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are to hand over such a person to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be delivered in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your self-satisfaction is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral\*.

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

\*Other translations have “fornicators” for “pornos”

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:3-13

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

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

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

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

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

### Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:6-21

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

We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let you love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God’s wrath follow its course. As it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.” Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John (all)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

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

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

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God.

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

### Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 12:1-21

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

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your rational offering of divine service. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. By the grace that was given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you should! Instead, think [of yourselves] reasonably, as God has apportioned to everyone a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, likewise we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let you love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God’s wrath follow its course. As it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.” Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:27-39

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

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

The entire city was in turmoil and the people came running. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the doors were shut. As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the [Roman] troops that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Immediately, he took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to the crowd. When they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, the Jews stopped beating Paul. Then, the commanding officer came near and arrested him. He gave orders that Paul should be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what he had done. From the crowd, some shouted one thing and some another. Since the commander could not find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded that Paul be taken into the barracks.

When Paul reached the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd. The whole mob followed them and shouted, “Away with him!” As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, “May I speak to you?”

The man said, “Do you know Greek? Then, are you not the Egyptian who recently stirred people up to rebellion and led the four thousand Assassins into the wilderness?”

But Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people.”

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

## The First Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 13:1-14

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

Let every human being be in subjection to the higher authorities because there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. Therefore, whoever opposes the authority opposes the ordinance of God. Those who oppose will receive judgment upon themselves. Certainly, rulers are not a terror to the good deed, but to the evil [deed]! Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will have praise [from the authority], because it is for you a minister of God for good. But if you do what is evil, then be afraid, because it does not bear the sword in vain; it is a servant of God, an avenger of wrath to anyone who does evil. Therefore, you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. For this reason, you also pay taxes, because the authorities are ministers of God’s service, always taking care of this purpose. And so, give to everyone as you owe: taxes to whom taxes are due; revenues to whom revenues are due; respect to whom respect is duet; honor to whom honor is due!

Do not owe anything to anyone, except to love one another; for whoever loves the other has fulfilled the law.

Indeed, these commandments (“You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commandments there are,) are all summed up in this very saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does not harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

Do this, being aware of the time: it is already time for you to awaken from sleep, for salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed! The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently, as in the day; not in parties and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and lustful acts, and not in strife or jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think how to satisfy the flesh and its lusts.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

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

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

When the commander had given him permission, Paul, stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying:

“Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense which I now make to you.”

When the people heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet.

Paul continued, “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are this day. I persecuted this Way to death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as the high priest and the entire council of the presbyters can testify. I even received letters for their brethren in Damascus and traveled there to bring these people in chains to Jerusalem to be punished. It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’ Since I could not see because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand of those who were with me and arrived in Damascus. Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, came to me. Standing by me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment, I was able to see him! He said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. For you will be a witness for him to all men, testifying to what you have seen and heard. Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.’

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:18-25

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

But the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of those suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

Thinking themselves to be wise, they became fools! They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, of birds, of four-footed animals, and creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, so that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves. Having exchanged the truth of God for a lie, they worshiped and offered divine service to the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1-8

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

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

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

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings.

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

#### The Praxis

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

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

Joses, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles (which means ‘Son of Encouragement’) was a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race. He sold a field that he owned and brought the money, laying it at the apostles’ feet.

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?”

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Let everyone give according to what he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that by having what is needed in everything, you may overflow in every good work. As it is written:

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

*His righteousness remains forever.*

Now, may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food also supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. Thus, may you be enriched in everything, so that you may be generous in all things, and through us, this brings thanksgiving to God. This ministry of giving which you perform does not only make up for what the saints are lacking; it also overflow into thanksgiving to God. Seeing that you prove yourselves by this service, the saints glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the Good News of Christ, and also for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all. As for them, with supplication on your behalf, they are devoted to you by reason of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-22

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

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

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:1-17

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

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

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

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

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

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

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John 8-13

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

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:3-11

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

But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?” She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 16:17-27 or Romans 16:17-24, 14:24-26\*

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

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Timothy, my fellow-worker, greets you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives. I, Tertius, who write the letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, my host and host of the whole Church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, as does Quartus, the brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

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

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

\*The order of these verses varies. TR places them as they are seen here. PT and EOB place the last paragraph as the end of chapter 14.

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:12-23

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

After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, “You are crazy!” When she insisted that it was so, they said, “It is his angel!” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, “Tell these things to James, and to the brethren.” Then he departed, and went to another place.

As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Keep on loving each other as brethren. Do not forget to be hospitable to strangers, for in doing so, some have welcomed angels without knowing it! Remember those who are in chains, as chained with them, and also those who are ill-treated, as if you too were suffering in the body. Marriage must be held in honor among all and the [marriage] bed [kept] undefiled: but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Be free from the love of money and be satisfied with what you have. As God has said, “I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.” And so, we say with good courage:

*The Lord is my helper, I will not fear.*

*What can man do to me?*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:22-31

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

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

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

Accordingly, the men were sent off and arrived in Antioch where they gathered the community and delivered the letter. The people read it and rejoiced over the encouragement.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:1-18

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

Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not to enter into arguments over disputable matters. One has faith to eat all things while the weak eats only vegetables. The one who eats [everything] should not look down on the one who does not eat. The one who does not eat should not judge the one who eats because God has accepted him. Who are you who judge someone else’s servant? He stands or falls to his own master! Yes, that one will be made [able] to stand, because God has the power to make someone stand.

One person considers that a [particular] day is more important [than the others]. Another thinks that every day is alike. Let each in his own mind be fully convinced. The one who observes the day should observe it ‘to the Lord’; and the one who does not observe it should do so ‘to the Lord’. The one who eats should eat ‘to the Lord’ because he gives thanks to God! Likewise, the one who does not eat should do so ‘to the Lord’ because such he [also] gives thanks to God! Indeed, we do not live selfishly and we do not die for ourselves. In fact, if we live, we live ‘to the Lord;’ or if we die, we die ‘to the Lord’. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. It is for this purpose that Christ died, rose, and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.’*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-27

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-30

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

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way. When they had tied him up with straps, Paul asked the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman [citizen] and uncondemned?”

When the centurion heard this, he went to the commanding officer and told him, “Do you realize what you are about to do? This man is a Roman [citizen]!”

Then the commanding officer came and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman?”

Paul replied, “Yes!”

The commanding officer answered, “I bought my citizenship for a great price!”

“But I was born a Roman,” Paul replied.

Immediately those who were about to examine him left him, and even the commanding officer was afraid when he realized that he had bound Paul, Roman [citizen], in chains. But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together. He then brought Paul down and set him before them.

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

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:1-13

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:1-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

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

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:3-12 (should this be 2?)

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:10-14

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:1-8

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-12

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:7-11

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

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

Three months later, we set sail.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:6-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:1-10

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 28:1-6

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-8

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 17-25

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

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:6-11

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

But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 7:2-11

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

Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:14-26

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

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:12-35

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

When day came, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty people who joined this conspiracy. They came to the chief priests and the presbyters, and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to eat nothing until we

have killed Paul. Now then, you with the Sanhedrin should petition the commanding officer to bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to judge his case more exactly. We are ready to kill him before he comes near!”

But Paul’s nephew heard of their ambush. He came and entered into the fortress and told Paul. Calling one of the centurions, Paul said, “Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him.”

Accordingly, the centurion took Paul’s nephew and brought him to the commanding officer, saying, “Paul, the prisoner, called me and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you.”

The commanding officer took Paul’s nephew by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?”

He replied, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though intending to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him. But to not give in to their request, for more than forty men lie in wait for Paul, and they have bound themselves under a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for you to grant their request.”

And so, the commanding officer let the young man go with this instruction, “Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me.” He called to himself two of the centurions, and said, “Prepare two hundred soldiers to leave at the third hour of the night for Caesarea, along with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears.” He asked them to provide animals in order set Paul on one, and to bring him safely to Felix the governor. He wrote a letter like this:

*“Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings!*

This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman [citizen]. Desiring to know why they accused him, I brought him to their council. I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but not to be charged with anything worthy of death or imprisonment. When I was told that the Jews were about to ambush this man, I immediately sent him to you. I also instructed his accusers to bring their accusations against him before you. Farewell.”

And so, the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. But on the next day, they left the horsemen to continue with him and returned to the barracks. When they arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and also presented Paul to him. After reading the letter, the governor asked what province Paul was from. Having learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, “I will hear you fully when your accusers also arrive.” He then commanded that Paul should be held in Herod’s palace.

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

## The Third Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 6:2-13

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

For he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses’ mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:1-23

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

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true. When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:12-26

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

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit ofadoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:16-20

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

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:2-18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!” But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-16

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

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 2:2-8

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

Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:1-3

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

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:17-32

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

Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. They are darkened in their understanding, cut off from God’s life because of their ignorance and because of the hardening of their hearts. Having become hardened, such people gave themselves up to lust and they pursue what is impure with greed. But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God!

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:26b-12:2

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

So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1

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

But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full- grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:11-5:3

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

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

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-31

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

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:7-16

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

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-16

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

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24a

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

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. \*[He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.]\*

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

\* [] lacking in Kitchener

### Saturday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 4:4-9

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

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:24-25:12

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

A few days later, Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and granted him a hearing concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became alarmed and said, “Go your way for this time. When it is convenient for me, I will summon you [again].” Meanwhile, he also hoped that Paul would offer him money for his release. For this reason too, he sent for him more often and discussed with him. But after two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. Then the high priest and the leaders of the Jewish people presented to him an [accusatory] report against Paul. They begged him and asked for his support against Paul, asking that he would transfer the prisoner [back] to Jerusalem, plotting to kill him on the way. However, Festus replied that Paul would be kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself would leave shortly. He said, “Those who have authority among you should go down with me! And if the man has done anything wrong, let them accuse him.”

Having stayed among them more than ten days, Festus returned to Caesarea. The following day, he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. When Paul arrived, the Jews who had traveled from Jerusalem stood around him and hurled against him many grave accusations which they could not prove. Paul then said in his [own] defense, “I have not sinned in any way, against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against Caesar!”

Then, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Festus asked Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem in order to be judged by me there concerning these matters?”

But Paul replied, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. Now, if I have done wrong and committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die! But if none of those things they accuse me of are true, then no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

At this, and after conferring with his advisers, Festus answered, “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go!”

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

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:10-24

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

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, even with unfading love. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:13-26:1a

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

A few days later, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and greeted Festus. Since Agrippa was spending some time there, Festus presented Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a certain man who was left as a prisoner by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the presbyters of the Jews presented an [accusatory] report about this man, asking me to condemn him. I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to condemn anyone to death before the accused has met his accusers face to face and has had opportunity to make his defense in the case against him. Then, since they had come together here, I did not delay. On the following day, I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in. When the accusers stood up, they did not bring any of the charges I was expecting. Instead, they had some dispute against him dealing with their own religion, and about a certain Jesus who was dead, and who Paul affirms to be alive. I was puzzled as how to investigate such things and asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. But Paul appealed that his case be reserved for the decision of the emperor, and so I gave orders that he be detained until I could send him to Caesar.”

Agrippa said to Festus, “I too would like to hear this man!”

“Tomorrow,” Festus replied, “you shall hear him.”

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy ofdeath, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

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

### Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:1-16

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

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look after you own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And so, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, according to his good purpose. Do all things without murmurings and disputes in order to become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you are seen as lights in the world. Uphold the word of life, so that I may have a reason to glory in the day of Christ: that I did not run or labor in vain.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:10-18

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

For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:25-35

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

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

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

### Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 2:22-26a

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

But you know how he has proved himself; as a child serves a father, he has served with me to spread the Good News. Therefore, I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how things are going with me [here]. As it is, I trust in the Lord that I too will be able to come shortly. But I deemed it necessary to send you Epaphroditus who is my brother, fellow-worker, fellow-soldier, and your apostle and the servant of my need. He longed for you all.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:2-11

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

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:10-23

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

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

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

### Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:14-5:5

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

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

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:12-18

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

The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

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

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

### Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

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

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak [to you] as to people that have common sense. Judge what I say: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is not it a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body because we all partake of the one loaf of bread. Consider Israel according to the flesh: is it not true that those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

What am I saying then: that something sacrificed to idols is meaningful, or that an idol is anything? [No], but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and also from the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons as well. Or do we [want to] provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are profitable. “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things build up. We should not seek our own good, but our neighbor’s good.

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliever (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your own, but the other’s conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else’s conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:2c-8

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

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:5-14

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

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

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

### Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 12:5b-16

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

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord, do not faint when you are reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens, and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

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

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. Be careful, for fear that anyone might fall short of the grace of God or that any root of bitterness should trouble you; many are poisoned by this. Be careful that there is no sexually immoral or profane person [among you], like Esau who sold his birthright for a meal.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:15-5:5

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

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

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

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:3

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

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

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek.

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

### Saturday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 5:16-6:2

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

I say this: walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. What the [fallen] flesh desires is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh! Yes, these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now, the works of the flesh are obvious. They are: adultery, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, the practice of magic, hatred, strife, selfish ambitions, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, excess drinking, orgies, and similar things. About these, I warn you, as I have done in the past: those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law! Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit! Let us not become arrogant, challenging and envying one another.

Brethren, even if someone is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. But watch out for yourself in order not to be tempted. Bear each others’ burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:7-11

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1b-18

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

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

As for myself, I certainly thought that it was my duty to oppose the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. I also did this in Jerusalem: having received authority from the chief priests, I had many of the saints imprisoned, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Often I went to all the synagogues to have them punished and I tried to make them blaspheme. Filled with rage against them, I even persecuted them in foreign cities.

Then, as I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission from the chief priests, at noon, O king, I saw on the way a light from the sky. It was brighter than the sun and shone around me and those who were traveling with me. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads!’

I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

He replied, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting! But arise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness both of what you have seen and of what I will reveal to you. I will rescue you from the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and receive remission of sins as well as an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

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

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

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

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan’s operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:1-18

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

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:19-27:8

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

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. I first proclaimed this to the people of Damascus, Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea. Then, I also proclaimed it to the Gentiles; that they should repent, turn to God, and do works worthy of [their] repentance. For this reason, the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. Yet, having obtained God’s help, I stand to this day and bear witness to small and great alike. I only say what the prophets and Moses said would happen, how the Christ must suffer, and how, by the resurrection of the dead, he would be first to proclaim light both to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles.”

As Paul was presenting this defense, Festus exclaimed with a loud voice, “Paul, you are crazy! Your great learning is driving you insane!”

But Paul replied, “I am not crazy, Most Excellent Festus, but boldly declare words of truth and good sense. Indeed, the king is aware of these things and I will also speak freely to him. For I am convinced that none of this is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe!”

Agrippa then said to Paul, “With a little persuasion, are you trying to make me a Christian?”

Paul answered, “I pray to God, that whether with little or with much, not only you but also all that hear me today might become as I am, except for these chains.”

The king rose up with the governor, along with Bernice and those who sat with them. After retiring, they talked together and agreed, “This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment.” Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for. Putting to sea from there, we sailed under [the shelter of] Cyprus because the winds were contrary. After sailing across the open sea off [the coasts of] Cilicia and Pamphylia, we arrived in Myra, a city of Lycia. There, the centurion found a ship sailing from Alexandria to Italy, and he put us on board. After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived with difficulty near Cnidus. The wind did not allow us to go further [on course], we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone. We sailed along the coast and arrived at a place called ‘Fair Havens’, near the city of Lasea.

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

### Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

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

As for other matters, brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus: as you received from us how you should live to please God, may you make progress in this ever more! For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. This is the will of God: your sanctification, and that you abstain from sexual immorality. Each one of you should know how to practice self-control of the body in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passions, as Gentiles who do not know God. No one should take advantage of or wrong a brother [or sister] in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we warned you and testified to you. Certainly, God did not call us for impurity but to sanctification! Therefore, whoever rejects this does not reject a human [command], but God, who has also given his Holy Spirit to you.

But concerning brotherly love, you have no need that one should write to you since you have learned from God how to love one another, and this is what you do toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to overflow even more! Make it your goal to lead a quiet life, to take care of your own affairs, and to work with your own hands, even as we instructed you. Thus, you will live properly in the sight of those who are outside and you will lack nothing.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-12

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:9-18b

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

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria.

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

### Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-28

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-2:1

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

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

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

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

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

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

### Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:12-24

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

Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth. You therefore who teach another, [why] do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, [why] do you steal? You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who glory in the law by your disobedience of the law, [why] do you dishonor God? For “the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:20-2:6

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

Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 26:1-8

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

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

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

### Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 2:1-3:4

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

Therefore, I encourage that first of all, petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all: for kings and all in high places, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and piety. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all - this testimony [was given] in its own times. I was appointed a preacher and an apostle of these things (I am telling the truth in Christ, not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire, therefore, that in every place, the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or doubting. In the same way, women should wear decent clothing, modest and fitting, without elaborate hairstyle, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, but with good works (which is fitting for women professing godliness). Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 1:19-25

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:16-20

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

Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

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

### Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:9-17

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

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

Now, when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them, so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirita had not yet come upon any of them. They had only been baptized in the Name of Christ Jesus. Then, Peter and Johnb laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

### Saturday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:1-7

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

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:13-21

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

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:9-26

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

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

When the south wind began to blow softly, they thought that their goal was within reach. Having lifted the anchor, they sailed along [the coast of]

Crete, close to shore. But before long, a violent wind called ‘the northeastern’ rushed down from the island! The ship was caught and could not face the wind. We had to yield to the wind and the ship was driven along. Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

As the men had been for a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, “Sirs, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete; then you would have avoided this injury and loss. Now, I encourage you to keep your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I offer divine service stood by me. He said: ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar. Behold, God has granted you [the life] all those who sail with you.’ Therefore, sirs, be of good cheer! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me. However, we must run aground on some island.”

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

## The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:5-17

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

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 27:27-37

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

On the fourteenth night, at about midnight, as we were driven back and forth in the Adriatic Sea, the sailors surmised that they were approaching some land. They measured the depth of water and found twenty fathoms. A little while later, they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on rocky ground, they let down four anchors from the stern, hoping to hold steady until daylight. Trying escape from the ship, sailors lowered the lifeboat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow. Paul then said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved!” So the soldiers cut away the ropes of the lifeboat and let it fall off.

As the day was coming on, Paul begged them all to take some food, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that you wait and continue fasting, taking nothing. Now, I urge you to take some food! This is for your safety, and not a hair will perish from any of your heads.” When he had said this and taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all. Then he broke it and began to eat. At this, they all cheered up and also took food. In all, we were two hundred seventy-six souls on the ship.

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

### Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 14:10-15:2

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

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.’*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all. And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

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

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

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:5-13

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:22-31

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

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

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

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

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

### Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:5-17

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

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even

more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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

Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation\*[; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him]\*.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:17-24

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

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.

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

### Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 10:4-13

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

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:23-26

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands.

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

### Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

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

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

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life ofJesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-24

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

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 25:23-26:6

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

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him.”

Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.”

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. “I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers!

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

### The Last Friday of Great Lent

#### The 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.