The Gospel Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Gospel Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Great Lent

## The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

### Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 94:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O come, let us rejoice in the Lord;

let us shout for joy to God our Saviour!

Let us come before His face with confession,

and shout for joy to Him with psalms.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 102:1, 8

A Psalm of David.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless His holy Name.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Slow to anger, and abounding it mercy.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:6-12

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

Do not give what is holy to the dogs and do not throw your pearls before pigs, for fear that they might trample them under their feet, and then turn [against you] and tear you to pieces.

Ask, and it will be given you! Seek, and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened for you! For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a snake? If you then who are evil [still] know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Therefore, whatever you desire other people to do for you, you shall also do for them! This is the law and the prophets. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who would stand?—

For there is atonement with You.

My soul hopes in the Lord

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:35-45

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

The good man brings out good things out of his good treasure, and the evil man brings out evil things out of his evil treasure. I tell you that for every idle word that people speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

But Jesus answered, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation except for the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. And behold, someone greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the south will stand up in the judgment with this generation and she will condemn it because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. And behold, someone greater than Solomon is here!

After an unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he wanders through dry places seeking rest and does not find it. He then says, ‘I will return into my house from which I came out,’ and when he has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order! Then, he goes [around] and brings with himself seven other spirits more evil than he, and they enter in and dwell there. And so, the last state of that person becomes worse than the first. This is how it will be with this evil generation.” Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Remember[, O Lord] that we are dust!

As for man, his days are like grass.

He will not be angry to the end,

nor will He be wrathful forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

nor rewarded us according to our transgressions.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:6-9

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

He then said this parable. “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to look for fruit on it, but found nothing. He said to the vine dresser, ‘Behold, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree for three years, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?’ The gardener answered, ‘Lord, let it be for this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 84:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

You have forgaven the iniquity of Your people;

You have covered all their sins. *(Pause)*

You put a stop to all Your wrath;

You turned away the heat of Your anger.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:29-36

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

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This is an evil generation; it asks for a sign. No sign will be given to this generation except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, the Son of Man will also be a sign to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up in the judgment along with the people of this generation, and she will condemn them: for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here! The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and they will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, someone greater than Jonah is here.

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

### Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 102:13, 12

A Psalm of David.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him,

as far as the East is from the West,

He has removed our iniquity from us.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:25-30

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

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

and You forgave the ungodliness of my sin.

Alleluia.

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

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

Jesus called his disciples and said, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me for three days now and they have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they might faint on the way.”

The disciples said to him, “But where should we get so many loaves in a deserted place as to satisfy so great a multitude?” Jesus asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

They replied, “Seven, and a few small fish.”

Jesus then told the crow to sit down on the ground and took the seven loaves and the fish. He gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples distributed [the food] to the multitudes. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. Then, Jesus sent the people away, got into the boat, and came to the borders of Magdala.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and put Jesus to the test by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. But he answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘The weather will be pleasant because the sky is red.’ In the morning, you say, ‘The weather will be bad today because the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times! An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation, except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” He left them and moved on. Glory be to God forever.

### The Feast of Nineveh

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 29:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;

the Lord became my helper.

You have turned my mourning into dancing;

You have torn off my sackcloth

and clothed me with gladness.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 8:10-21

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

Immediately, he got into the boat with his disciples and arrived into the region of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came out and began to question him, seeking from him a sign from heaven, and putting him to the test. Jesus sighed deeply in his spirit, and said, “Why is this generation seeking a sign? Amen, I tell you: no sign will be given to this generation!”

He left them, and again entered into the boat and departed to the other side. But the disciples forgot to take bread and had only one loaf in the boat with them. Jesus warned them in these words, “Be watchful, beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod.”

They reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have no bread!”

Jesus, perceiving this, said to them, “Why do you reason that it is because you have no bread [that I have said this]? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Is your heart still hardened? Having eyes, do you not see? Having ears, do not you hear? Do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather up?”

They told him, “Twelve!”

“And after the seven loaves had fed four thousand people, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather up?”

They replied, “Seven!”

Jesus asked them, “Do you still not understand?” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:5, 18

A Psalm of David.

I called on the Lord in affliction,

and He heard me and brought me into a broad place.

The Lord chastened me with chastening,

but He did not give me up to death.

Alleluia.

##### John 2:12-25

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

After this, he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they did not stay there [more than] a few days.

Now, the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers sitting [at their booths]. So, he made a whip of cords and drove [them] all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; he also poured out the changers’ money and overthrew their tables. To those who sold the doves, he said, “Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father’s house a marketplace!” Then, his disciples remembered that it was written:

*“Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

Therefore, the Jews declared, “What sign do you show us, since you do these things?”

Jesus answered and responded to them, “Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up!”

The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this sanctuary, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the sanctuary of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Now, when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his Name, observing the signs which he was performing. But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew everyone, and because he did not need a witness about human nature, for he himself knew what was in man. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

Let my judgment come forth from Your presence;

let my eyes behold uprightness.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:3-6

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

Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

The apostles also said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,’ and it would obey you! Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 118:49, 52

A Psalm of David.

Remember Your word to Your servant,

by which You have given me hope.

I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord,

and I was comforted.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 13:33-37

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

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

It is like a man who journeyed to another country. He leaves his house, gives authority to his servants and to each one his task. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning. But fear that coming suddenly, he might find you sleeping. What I tell you, I [also] tell everyone: keep watch!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 94:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O come, let us rejoice in the Lord;

let us shout for joy to God our Saviour!

Let us come before His face with confession,

and shout for joy to Him with psalms.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!” Glory be to God forever.

## The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 45:11

A Psalm of David.

“Be still and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.”

Alleluia.

##### Mark 11:22-26

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

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God! For amen, I tell you that if anyone tells this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ without doubt in the heart but believing that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says. Therefore, I tell you, whatever things you pray for and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them. Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive; so that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your transgressions.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Serve the Lord with gladness;

enter before Him with rejoicing.

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:3-10

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

Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

The apostles also said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,’ and it would obey you!

But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or sheepherding, that will say when that servant returns from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at the table.’ Instead, will you not tell him, ‘Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me while I eat and drink. Afterwards, you may eat and drink’? Does the master thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not! So you also, when you have done all those things which you are commanded [to do], say, ‘We are unworthy servants, we have [only] done our duty!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 2:11, 10

A Psalm of David.

Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice in Him with trembling.

And now, O kings, understand;

be instructed, all you rulers of the earth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 6:1-18

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

Be careful not to make your charitable giving before other people, with the intention to be seen by them. If you do so, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Therefore, when you do merciful deeds, do not sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets in order to receive glory from men. Amen, I tell you: they have [already] received their reward. But when you do merciful deeds, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your merciful deeds may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you openly.

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Amen, I tell you: they have [already] received their reward! But you, when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. When you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard on account of their many words. Therefore, do not be like them, for your Father knows what things you need even before you ask him. Pray like this:

*‘Our Father who are in heaven,*

*hallowed be your Name.*

*Your Kingdom come,*

*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our bread of the morrow\**

*and forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from the evil one.*

*For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,*

*now and unto ages of ages. Amen.’*

For if you forgive people their offences, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their offences, neither will your Father forgive your offences.

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites with their gloomy faces. For they disfigure their faces so that people may see that they are fasting. Amen, I tell you: they have received their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that people may not see that you are fasting. Only your Father who is in secret will see, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. Glory be to God forever.

\*Coptic interpretation of Greek “supersubstantial bread.”

### Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:15

A Psalm of David.

Their stomachs are filled with Your hidden treasures,

they [have satisfied themselves with swine,

and have left] the surplus to their children.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:1-13

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

One day, when Jesus had finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.”

Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say:

*‘Our Father in heaven,*

*May your Name be kept holy!*

*May your Kingdom come!*

*May your will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us day by day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins,*

*for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us;*

*and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend. You go to this friend’s house at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread! A friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him. Then, the one inside answers and says, ‘Do not bother me! The door is now shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’! I tell you, although he will not get up and give food to him because they are friends, yet because of the requester’s bold persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. Whoever seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if a son asks for a fish, the father will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 6:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, rebuke me[, but] not in Your anger;

and chasten me[, but] not in Your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak,

heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:24-34

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

However, when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man can only cast out demons by {the authority of} Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!”

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus told them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? If it is by Beelzebul that I cast out demons, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter into the house of the strong man, and plunder his goods, unless he first bind the strong man? Then he will [be able to] plunder his house.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters! Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, neither in this age, nor in the one which is to come.

Make the tree good and its fruit [will be] good, or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt, for the tree is known by its fruit. You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? Indeed, words flow out of what fills the heart. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 21:27

A Psalm of David.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord will praise Him;

their hearts will live forever and ever.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:33-50

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

Jesus arrived in Capernaum, and when he was in the house, he asked his disciples, “What were you arguing among yourselves on the way?”

But they remained silent because on the way, they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

He sat down, called the Twelve and told them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and the servant of all.” He took a little child and set him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives such a little child in my Name, receives me; and whoever receives me, does not receive me, but the one who sent me.”

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in your Name; and we forbade him, because he does not follow us!”

But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him, for no one who does a mighty work in my Name will be able to quickly speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is on our side. Amen, I tell you that whoever will give you a cup of water to drink in my Name, because you belong to Christ, will not lose his reward. But if someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around the neck”.

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than have your two hands and go into Gehenna, the unquenchable fire ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having your two feet to be cast into Gehenna, the fire that will never be quenched, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye, rather than with two eyes be cast into the Gehenna of fire, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Indeed, everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” Glory be to God forever.

### Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I will lack nothing.

He restores my soul;

He guides me on the paths of righteousness

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:10-15

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

It so happened that as Jesus was sitting in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

When Jesus heard it, he told them, “Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Then, John’s disciples came to Jesus, asking, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”

Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then, they will fast. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Look upon me and have mercy on me,

for I am an only son, and I am poor.

The afflictions of my heart are multiplied;

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:41-50

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

Peter said to him, “Lord, are you telling this parable [only] to us, or to everyone?”

The Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and wise steward whom his master will set over his household to give [his people] their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his lord will find doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will set this servant over all that he has. But what if the servant says in his heart, ‘My lord is late in returning’ and begins to beat his fellow-servants, both men and women, and also to eat, drink and become drunk? Then the lord of that servant will come in a day when he is not expecting him, and in an hour that he does not know. He will cut the servant in two and assign him a place with the unbelievers. Such a servant, who knew his lord’s will and yet did not prepare or do what the master wanted will be beaten with many stripes. But a servant who did not know and did things worthy of punishment will be beaten with few stripes. From everyone to whom much is given, much will be required; and from whoever was entrusted with much, much will be asked.

I have come to bring fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! But now I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! Glory be to God forever.

### Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Remember Your compassions and Your mercies, O Lord,

for they are from all eternity.

Do not remember the sins of my youth, and my acts of ignorance.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:24-34

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

*But woe to you who are rich!*

*For you have received your consolation.*

*Woe to you, you who are full now,*

*for you will be hungry.*

*Woe to you who laugh now,*

*for you will mourn and weep.*

*Woe to you when all men speak well of you,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to the false prophets.*

But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other [cheek]. If someone takes away your cloak, do not refuse your coat also. Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

As you would like others to do to you, do the same to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them! If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same! If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive [back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 24:20

A Psalm of David.

O keep my soul and deliver me;

do not let me be ashamed, for I have hoped in You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:35-38

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

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind [even] to the ungrateful and evil.

*Therefore, be merciful,*

*even as your Father is also merciful.*

*Do not judge,*

*and you will not be judged.*

*Do not condemn,*

*and you will not be condemned.*

*Set free,*

*and you will be set free.*

Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it will be measured back to you.” Glory be to God forever.

### Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 23:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,

the world and all who dwell in it.

He has set it firmly on the seas,

and prepared it on the rivers.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 8:22-25

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

On one of those days, he entered into a boat with his disciples and said to them, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” And so, they launched out. But as they sailed, Jesusd fell asleep. A wind storm came down on the lake, and they were taking on dangerous amounts of water. His disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, “Master, master, we are dying!” He awoke, rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and it was calm. He said to them, “Where is your faith?” In fear and amazement, they said to one another, “Who is this, then, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him? Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:14, 18

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my strength and my song,

and He has become my salvation.

The Lord chastened me with chastening,

but He did not give me up to death.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:21-29

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

Jesus said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a basket or under a bed? Is not it placed on a stand? For there is nothing hidden that may not be made manifest, and nothing was made secret that should not come to light. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!”

He also told them, “Pay attention to what you hear! With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to those who hear. For whoever has will receive even more, but to the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is as if a man would scatter seed on the ground, and then go to sleep. Night and day, whether he sleeps or rises, the seed springs up and grows, even if he does not know how. For the earth bears fruit: first the blade comes, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the fruit is ripe, at once the man pulls out his sickle, because the harvest has come.” Glory be to God forever.

### Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 29:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will exalt You, O Lord,

for You upheld me,

and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, my God, I cried to You,

and You have healed me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 5:12-16

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

It happened, while he was in one of the cities, that there was a man full of leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face, and begged him, saying, “Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean.”

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I want to! Be made clean.”

Immediately the leprosy left him. Jesus commanded him to tell no one, “But go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing according to what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” Still, the report concerning him spread much more, and great multitudes came together to hear and to be healed by him of their infirmities. But he withdrew himself into the desert and prayed. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 12:6, 7

A Psalm of David.

But I hope in Your mercy;

my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord, my benefactor,

and I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:1-10

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

One day, when Jesus had finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.”

Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say:

‘*Our Father in heaven,*

*May your Name be kept holy!*

*May your Kingdom come!*

*May your will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us day by day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins,*

*for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us;*

*and lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from the evil onec.’*

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend. You go to this friend’s house at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread! A friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him. Then, the one inside answers and says, ‘Do not bother me! The door is now shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’! I tell you, although he will not get up and give food to him because they are friends, yet because of the requester’s bold persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. Whoever seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Glory be to God forever.

### Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 118:57, 58

A Psalm of David.

You are my portion, O Lord;

I said that I would keep Your law.

I implored Your grace with all my heart;

have mercy on me according to Your saying.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:25-37

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

Find an agreement with your adversary as soon as possible, even as you are on your way to court, fearing that perhaps the prosecutor will deliver you to the judge, the judge to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Amen, I tell you: you will not get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

You have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘You shall not commit adultery;’ but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you! Indeed, it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you! It is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.

It was also said, ‘Whoever shall divorce his wife, let him give her a writing of divorce,’ but I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, (except for the cause of sexual immorality), makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a woman put away in this manner commits adultery.

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not swear falsely; you must fulfill yours vows to the Lord.’ But I tell you: do not swear at all! Neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not even swear by your head because you cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Whatever goes beyond these is from the evil one. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Give ear to my words, O Lord,

hear my cry.

Attend to the voice of my supplication,

my King and my God.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:38-48

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

You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you: do not resist one who is evil, but to whoever strikes you on your right cheek, present the other cheek as well. If anyone sues you to take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him for two. Give to whoever asks you, and do not deny whoever desires to borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you! Pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust. And so, if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore, be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Glory be to God forever.

## The First Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

Let my judgment come forth from Your presence;

let my eyes behold uprightness.

Alleluia.

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

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

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Do not judge in order not to be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in someone else’s eye, but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye? How can you tell someone, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye;’ and behold, there is a beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Do not give what is holy to the dogs and do not throw your pearls before pigs, for fear that they might trample them under their feet, and then turn [against you] and tear you to pieces.

Ask, and it will be given you! Seek, and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened for you! For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a snake? If you then who are evil [still] know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Therefore, whatever you desire other people to do for you, you shall also do for them! This is the law and the prophets. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my support, my refuge, and my deliverer;

My God is my helper, I will hope in Him.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:22-29

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

Many will tell me in that Day, ‘Lord, Lord, did not we prophesy in your Name, cast out demons in your Name and do many deeds of power in your Name?’ Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you! Depart from me, you who work iniquity.’

Everyone therefore who hears my words and does them, I will compare with a wise person who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, beating hard on that house. Yet, it did not collapse, because it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, beating hard on that house; and it collapsed - and great was its fall.”

It happened, when Jesus had finished saying these things, that the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them with authority, not like the scribes. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

I lift up my soul to You, O Lord.

O my God, I trust in You;

do not let me be put to shame,

Make Your ways known to me, O Lord,

and teach me Your paths.

Guide me in Your truth and teach me.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 6:19-33

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

Do not store up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. Instead, store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The lamp of the body is the eye! If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious for your life: wondering what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? See the birds of the sky: they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more value than they?

Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? Why then are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil or spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these! But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying: ‘What will we eat?’, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘What will we wear?’ It is the Gentiles who seek after all these things, but your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:27-38

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

But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other [cheek]. If someone takes away your cloak, do not refuse your coat also. Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

As you would like others to do to you, do the same to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them! If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same! If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive [back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind [even] to the ungrateful and evil.

*Therefore, be merciful,*

*even as your Father is also merciful.*

*Do not judge,*

*and you will not be judged.*

*Do not condemn,*

*and you will not be condemned.*

*Set free,*

*and you will be set free.*

Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it will be measured back to you.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 39:12

A Psalm of David.

Do not remove then, O Lord,

Your compassion from me;

may Your mercy and Your truth

always support me.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:25-29

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

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!”

The spirit cried out, convulsed greatly and came out of the boy. He became as dead, so much that most of the people said, “He is dead!” But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up; and the boy arose.

When Jesus entered into the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not we cast it out?” He told them, “This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God,

bring to the Lord young rams;

bring to the Lord honour and glory.

Bring to the Lord glory due to His Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:1-8

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

Jesus also told them a parable [illustrating] that they must always pray and not give up, saying: “In a certain city, there was a judge who did not fear God and did not care [about anyone]. A widow lived in that city, and she often came to him, saying: ‘Defend me from my adversary!’ For a time, he would not [do anything], but after a while, he said to himself, ‘Although I neither fear God nor care for anyone, yet because this widow is bothering me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual visits.’”

The Lord said, “Listen to what the unrighteous judge has to say! Will not God grant justice to his elect who are crying out to him day and night, although he exercises patience regarding them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly! And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 40:5, 14

A Psalm of David.

I said, “Lord, have mercy on me;

heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen! Amen!

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:22-31

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

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore, I tell you not to be anxious about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing! Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not have a warehouse or barn and [yet] God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Which one of you by worrying can add a single day to his life? If you are not able to accomplish even the smallest things, why then are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 40:2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:17-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

For they are too strong for me.

They overtook me in the day of my affliction,

but the Lord became my support.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:17-24

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

Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill! Amen, I tell you: until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments and teach others to do so shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. Indeed, I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

You have heard that it was said of old, ‘You shall not murder;’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be in danger of the judgment.’ But I tell you, whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Whoever calls his brother ‘Raca!’ shall be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever shall say, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.

If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there, before the altar. First, go your way and be reconciled to your brother, and then offer your gift. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my support, my refuge, and my deliverer;

My God is my helper, I will hope in Him,

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:32-38

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

Jesus called his disciples and said, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me for three days now and they have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they might faint on the way.”

The disciples said to him, “But where should we get so many loaves in a deserted place as to satisfy so great a multitude?” Jesus asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

They replied, “Seven, and a few small fish.”

Jesus then told the crow to sit down on the ground and took the seven loaves and the fish. He gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples distributed [the food] to the multitudes. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 27:9

A Psalm of David.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;

shepherd them and raise them up forever.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:20-30

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

He then began to rebuke the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes! But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you! You, Capernaum, who [thought that you] were exalted to heaven, you will go down to hades! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this [very] day. But I tell you: on the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom, than for you.”

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 19:16-30

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

Behold, a man came to him and asked, “Good teacher, what good thing shall I do in order to have eternal life?”

Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

The man said to him, “Which ones?”

Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder.’ ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ‘You shall not steal.’ ‘You shall not bear false witness.’ ‘Honor your father and mother;’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The young man then said to him, “All these things I have observed from my youth! What do I still lack?”

Jesus replied, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me!” But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad because he was a person with great possessions. Jesus said to his disciples, “Amen I say to you, it will be hard for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Indeed, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.”

When the disciples heard this, they were extremely astonished and said, “Who then can be saved?”

Looking at them, Jesus answered, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!”

Then Peter said, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that you who have followed me, at the regeneration, when the Son of Man will sit on the throne of his glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the Twelve tribes of Israel. Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or lands for my Name’s sake will receive a hundred times [more] and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first!” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Return, O my soul, to your rest,

for the Lord has shown you kindness,

for He has delivered my soul from death,

my eyes from tears.

Alleluia.

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

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

Then, Jesus sent the people away, got into the boat, and came to the borders of Magdala.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and put Jesus to the test by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. But he answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘The weather will be pleasant because the sky is red.’ In the morning, you say, ‘The weather will be bad today because the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times! An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation, except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

He left them and moved on. The disciples came to the other side and had forgotten to take bread. Jesus then said to them, “Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!”

At this, they reasoned among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread!”

Perceiving this, Jesus said, “Why do you reason among yourselves, you of little faith, ‘because you have brought no bread?’ Do you still not understand or remember the five loaves that fed the five thousand and how many baskets you gathered up? Or do you not remember the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many baskets you took up? How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking to you about {physical} bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!”

Then, they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

The Lord sits enthroned as King forever.

The Lord will give strength to His people;

the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:39-49

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

He spoke a parable to them. “Can the blind guide the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but after being fully trained, everyone will be like their teacher. Why do you see the speck of chaff that is in your brother’s eye but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck of chaff that is in your eye,’ when you do not see the beam that is in your own eye? You hypocrites! First, remove the beam from your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly in order to remove the speck of chaff that is in your brother’s eye. For there is no good tree that brings forth rotten fruit, or any rotten tree that produces good fruit. Indeed, each tree is known by its own fruit! People do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick up grapes from a bramble bush. Out of the good treasure of his heart, a good person brings out what is good, but out of the evil treasure of his heart, one who is evil brings out what is evil. For out of the overflowing of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what the person is like who comes to me, hears my words and does them. He is like a man building a house who dug and went deep, and laid a foundation on the rock. When a flood arose, the water rushed against that house but could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock. But the one who hears and does not practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The stream rushed against it, and at once it fell down; and the ruin of that house was great.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Remember me in Your mercy,

because of Your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright;

For Your Name’s sake, O Lord,

[You will] pardon my sin, for it is great.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:43-50

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

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than have your two hands and go into Gehenna, the unquenchable fire ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having your two feet to be cast into Gehenna, the fire that will never be quenched, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye, rather than with two eyes be cast into the Gehenna of fire, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Indeed, everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 117:19, 20

A Psalm of David.

Open the gates of righteousness to me;

I will enter by them and confess the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;

the righteous will enter through it.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:13-21

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

Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. How narrow is the gate, and how pressing is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it.

Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing. Inwardly they are ravenous wolves! By their fruits you will recognize them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree produces good fruit, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, and neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them. It is not everyone who tells me, ‘Lord, Lord’ who will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Glory be to God forever.

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 50:3,

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O God,

in Your great mercy;

and according to the abundance of Your compassion,

[You will] blot out my transgression.

Turn Your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 1:12-15

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 56:2

A Psalm of David.

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

for my soul trusts in You;

and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings

until iniquity passes away.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, will I seek after Your face.

Do not turn Your face from me.

Be my helper, do not utterly cast me away;

Do not forsake me, O God, my Saviour.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

But Jesus answered, “It is written:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 40:1

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

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

Alleluia.

##### Luke 19:11-28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 31:5

A Psalm of David.

I made my sin known to You,

and no longer hid my iniquity.

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

and You forgave the ungodliness of my sin.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:33-36

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:54-59

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

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

and in whose mouth there is no deceit.

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

Alleluia.

##### John 8:31-39

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

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

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

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

They answered him, “Our father is Abraham!”

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 26:4abcd

A Psalm of David.

One thing I ask of the Lord,

and seek after,

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:18-22

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;

have mercy on me and hear me,

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,

for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:20-26

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

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

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

They answered, “Caesar’s.”

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

But the Lord continues forever;

He has prepared His throne for judgment.

He will judge the world in righteousness.

Alleluia.

##### John 12:44-50

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 15:10, 11a

A Psalm of David.

For You will not leave my soul in Hades,

nor allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

You made the ways of life known to me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:27-38

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

Some of the Sadducees came to him, people who deny that there is a resurrection. They asked him, “Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man dies having a wife and without a child, his brother should take the wife and raise up a posterity for his brother. There were therefore seven brothers: the first took a wife and died childless. The second took her as wife, and he [also] died childless. The third took her, and likewise all seven [brothers] left no children and died. Afterwards, the woman also died. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife.”

Jesus replied to them, “The children of this age get married and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead do not marry or are given in marriage. For they cannot die any more, because they are like the angels, and they are children of God, being children of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the [story of the burning] bush, when he called the Lord ‘The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Now, he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all are alive to him!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 15:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Keep me, O Lord, for I hope in You.

I said to the Lord, “You are my God;

You have no need of my goods.”

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:14-26

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

Jesus was casting out a demon which was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the people were amazed. But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!” Others put him to the test and asked from him a sign from heaven. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. A house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul! But if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

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

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

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding no rest, the unclean spirit says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came out.’ When he returns, he finds it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 129:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I cry to You, O Lord, out of the depths;

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplication!

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:17-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 26:6d, 7, 8a

A Psalm of David.

I will sing and praise the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;

have mercy on me and hear me,

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 18:23-35

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

Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle his accounts with his servants. When he began the settlement, someone was brought who owed him ten thousand talents. But because the servant could not pay, his lord gave orders that he be sold, with his wife, children, and all that he had, so that payment may be made. At this, the servant fell down on his knees before him, saying: ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will repay you all!’ The lord of that servant, moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and took him by the throat, saying: ‘Pay me what you owe!’

And so, his fellow-servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying: ‘Have patience with me, and I will repay you!’ But the first man would not [have compassion] but went off and had him cast into prison, until he should pay back what was due. When his [other] fellow-servants saw what had been done, they were extremely distressed and came to their lord to report all that had taken place. Then, his lord summoned the [first] servant and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should not you also have had mercy on your fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on you?’ His lord was angry and delivered him to the jailers until he would pay all that was due. This is how my heavenly Father will also treat you if you do not each forgive each other from your hearts.” Glory be to God forever.

## The Third Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 87:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, God of my salvation,

I cry before You day and nigh.

Let my prayer come before You;

incline Your ear to my supplication.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:1-20

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

Pharisees and scribes then came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying: “Why do your disciples disobey the tradition of the presbyters? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

Jesus answered them, “Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever may tell his father or his mother, “Whatever support you might otherwise have received from me is now a gift devoted to God,” is not bound to honor his father or mother.’ Thus, you have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaias prophesied about you quite well when he said:

*‘These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. And in vain dot heyworship me,*

*teaching as doctrine rules made by men.’*

Jesus gathered the crowds and said to them, “Hear, and understand. What enters into the mouth does not defile a person, but what comes out of the mouth, this is what defiles a person.”

Then, the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

But Jesus answered, “Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone! They are blind guides of the blind; and if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.”

And so, Jesus answered, “Do you still fail to understand? Do not you understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the belly and then out of the body? But the things which come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile the person. Indeed, it is from the heart that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies come forth. These are the things which defile a person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not make anyone impure.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 17

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

But I cried to God,

and the Lord heard me.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 20:1-16

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

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household and who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a [salary of one] denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [Later], he went out when it was about the third hour and saw other men standing idle in the marketplace. He told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ And so, they went their way. Again, he went out when it was about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour, he went out and still found others standing idle. He told them, ‘Why do you stand here all day, doing nothing?’

They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us!’

The master told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.’ When evening came, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.’

When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. Now, when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more, but they each likewise received one denarius. When they received it, they grumbled against the master of the household, saying: ‘These last [workers] have spent one hour, and yet you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

But the master answered to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for one denarius? Take what is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last one just as much as to you! Is not it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?’ And so, the last will be first, and the first last! Indeed, many are called, but few are chosen.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 78:8, 9a, half of b

A Psalm of David.

Do not remember our transgressions of old;

let Your compassion overtake us quickly,

for we have become very poor.

Help us, O God, our Saviour;

…for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 15:11-32

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

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.’ And the father divided his livelihood between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.”’

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. Then the son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Now, his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.’ But the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him. But he answered his father, ‘Behold, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. But you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’

The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!’” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 29:2, 3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

I will exalt You, O Lord,

for You upheld me,

and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, my God, I cried to You,

and You have healed me.

O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Hades.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:28-32

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

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which one of the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 26:7b, 8a

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

Have mercy on me and hear me

[for] my heart speaks to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:7-15

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

When Jesus noticed how people chose the best seats, he told the guest a parable, saying, “When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit in the best seat. It could be that someone more honorable than you might have been invited by the host, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, ‘Make room for this person.’ Then, with shame, you would proceed to take the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. And so, when the host comes, he may tell you, ‘Friend, move up higher!’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Jesus also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen or rich neighbors because they might return the favor and pay you back. Instead, when you give a feast, ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind [to come]. Then, you will be blessed, because they do not have the means to pay you back. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will feast in the Kingdom of God!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 54:17, 18bc

A Psalm of David.

I cried to God,

and the Lord heard me.

I will declare,

and He will hear my voice.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:1-9

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

Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.’

The manager said within himself, ‘What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ Calling each one of his lord’s debtors to him, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe to my lord?’ The man replied, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty.’ Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ That one said, ‘A hundred cors of wheat.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 16:1

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:28-32

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

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which one of the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 16:6

A Psalm of David.

I cried out, O God, and You heard me;

incline Your ear to me, and hear my words.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:57-62

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

As they went on the way, a certain man said to him, “I want to follow you wherever you go, Lord!”

Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He said to another, “Follow me!” But the man said, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.”

But Jesus replied, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But you go and announce the Kingdom of God.”

Another also said, “I want to follow you, Lord, but first allow me to say goodbye to those who are at my house!”

But Jesus said to him, “No one who has put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 17:38, 41

A Psalm of David.

I will pursue my enemies and overtake them;

and I will not turn back until they fail.

And You have made my enemies to turn their backs to me,

and utterly destroyed those who hate me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:16-24

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

But Jesus replied, “A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. At supper time, he sent out his servant to tell those who were invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now!’ But they all began to make excuses.

The first told him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!’

Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!’

Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!’

That servant came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.’

The servant said, ‘Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!’

The lord then told the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled! For I tell you that none of those who were invited will taste of my supper.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 17:18, 19a

A Psalm of David.

He will deliver me from my powerful enemies,

and from those who hate me,

for they are too strong for me.

They overtook me in the day of my affliction.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:35-41

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

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 11:8

A Psalm of David.

You, O Lord, will guard us,

and preserve us from this generation and forever.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 3:7-12

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

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, “You are the Son of God!” He sternly warned them that they should not make him known. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:35-43

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

As he came near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant. People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He cried out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” Then, those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, ”What do you want me to do?”

The man replied, “Lord, that I may see again!” Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you.”

Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 27:6, 7a, half of b

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord, for He has heard

the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector;

my heart hopes in Him.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:31-37

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 27:2

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, the cry of my supplication

when I pray to You,

when I lift up my hands

towards Your holy temple.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:21-31

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

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

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 141:6, 8ab

A Psalm of David.

I cried to You, O Lord,

I said, “You are my hope,

my portion in the land of the living.”

Bring my soul out of prison,

that I may confess Your Name;

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.’

But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.’

He said, ‘I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father’s house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.’

But Abraham replied to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!’

But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

Then Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 60:2, 6bc

A Psalm of David.

Hear my supplication, O God;

attend to my prayer.

You give an inheritance

to those who fear Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?”

They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*‘The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?’*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people considered him to be a prophet. Glory be to God forever.

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 26:14, 13

A Psalm of David.

Wait on the Lord,

have courage, and let your heart be strong;

and wait on the Lord!

I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:22-31

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

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore, I tell you not to be anxious about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing! Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not have a warehouse or barn and [yet] God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Which one of you by worrying can add a single day to his life? If you are not able to accomplish even the smallest things, why then are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 30:25, 24ab

A Psalm of David.

Take courage and let your heart be strong,

all you who hope in the Lord.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,

for the Lord requires truth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 22:1-14

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

Jesus now addressed them with another parable, saying: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who planned a wedding feast for his son. He then sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. Again, the king sent out other servants, saying: ‘Tell those who are invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner! My cattle and my fatted calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!”’ But those who were invited made light of it and went off, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the others seized the king’s servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. When the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and to burn their city.

Then, the king said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the crossroads of the highways, and as many people as you may find, invite to the wedding feast.’

Those servants went out into the highways and gathered as many people as they could find, both good and bad. Thus, the wedding [hall] was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not wearing a wedding garment. He asked him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here, not wearing a wedding garment?’ And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.’ For many are called, but few chosen.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 104:3b, 4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Seek the Lord and be strengthened;

continually seek His face.

Remember the wonders He has done,

His miracles and the judgments of His mouth,

Alleluia.

##### John 4:1-42

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

Then, when the Lord learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea and departed into Galilee. Now, he needed to pass through Samaria. And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me [something] to drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

The Samaritan woman then said to him, “How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Not only this, the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered, “I have no husband!”

Jesus replied, “You said well, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming,” (he who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then, his disciples arrived. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What are you looking for?” or, “Why do you speak with her?” Then, the woman left her water jar, went away into the city, and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I have done! Could this be the Christ?”

The people [then] went out of the city, and were coming to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, “Rabbi, eat!”

But he told them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

The disciples then said one to another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months until the harvest comes?’ Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields! They are already white for the harvest! [Already], he who reaps is receiving his wages and gathering fruit to eternal life; so that both the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together! For in this, the saying is true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into [the rewards of] their labor.”

Many of the Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who had testified, “He told me everything that I did!” For this reason, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. So, he stayed there two days, and many more believed because of his word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, but because we have heard for ourselves and [we] know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,

and glory, all you upright in heart.

Alleluia.

##### John 4:19-24

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

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 87:3b, 4, 5a

A Psalm of David.

Incline Your ear to my supplication[, O Lord].

For my soul is full of troubles,

and my soul draws near to Hades;

I am counted among those who go down into the pit.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:16-21

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

Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, “The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. He thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!’ Then the man said, ‘This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. Then I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared - whose will they be?’ This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward God.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

for I will cry to You all day long.

Gladden the soul of Your servant,

for I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:12-17

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

Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place.”

But Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” (For they were about five thousand men).

Jesus then said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” They did so, and made them all sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Everybody ate, and all were satisfied. The disciples gathered up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

For You, O Lord, are kind and gentle,

and abounding in mercy to all who call on You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,

and attend to the cry of my supplication.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 9:14-24

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

Returning to the [other] disciples, Jesus saw a great crowd around them and scribes questioning them. At once, when all the people saw him, they were greatly amazed and rushed to greet him. Jesus asked the scribes, “What are you asking them about?”

In the crowd, someone said, “Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute spirit. Wherever the spirit seizes him, it throws him to the ground and my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able.”

Jesus answered him, “Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

They brought the son to him, and when he saw Jesus, the spirit immediately convulsed the boy who fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood”, he answered. Often, it has thrown him both into the fire and into water, in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us!”

Jesus said to the man, “If you are able! All things are possible to the one who believes!”

Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe! Help my unbelief!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:17ab

A Psalm of David.

Work a sign for good in my midst,

and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed.

Alleluia.

##### John 8:12-20

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

Then again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

At this, the Pharisees said to him, “You bear witness to yourself! Your testimony is not true!”

Jesus answered them, “Even if I bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two people is truthful. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me [also] bears witness to me.”

At this, they asked him, “Where is your Father?”

Jesus answered, “You do not know me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” Jesus spoke these words in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. Yet no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 54:2, 3a

A Psalm of David.

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,

and do not despise my supplication.

Attend to me, and hear me.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:1-12

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

Jesus then left that place and arrived to the borders of Judea and beyond the Jordan. Again, crowds were gathering around him. As he usually did, he taught them again. Pharisees came to test him, asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

Jesus answered, “What instructions did Moses give you?”

They replied, “Moses allowed a certificate of divorce to be written, and to divorce her.”

But Jesus said to them, “It was because of your hardness of heart that Moses wrote this law for you. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother, and will join to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. Thus, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one tear apart!”

In the house, his disciples asked him again about the same matter. He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:13, 14a

A Psalm of David.

Your mercy towards me is great,

and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.

O God, the transgressors have risen against me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:6-9

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

He then said this parable. “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to look for fruit on it, but found nothing. He said to the vine dresser, ‘Behold, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree for three years, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?’ The gardener answered, ‘Lord, let it be for this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.’” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:14

A Psalm of David.

O God, the transgressors have risen against me,

and an assembly of violent men have sought my soul,

and did not set You before them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:37-43b

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

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great multitude met him. A man from the crowd called out, saying, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. Behold, when a spirit seizes him, he suddenly cries out and it convulses him so that he foams [at the mouth]. It scarcely ever leaves him and is breaking him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

Jesus answered, “Faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”

While the boy was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him violently. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the majesty of God.

[And all marveled at all that Jesus did.]\*

Glory be to God forever.

\*Based on the Arabic. EOB reads “But while all were marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,”

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:17

A Psalm of David.

Work a sign for good in my midst,

and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed,

because You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:10-17

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

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. Behold, there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up. When Jesus saw her, he called her, and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!” He laid his hands on her and immediately, she stood up straight and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the crowd, “There are six days in which people should work! Therefore, come on those days and be healed, not on the Sabbath day!”

Then, the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each one of you free his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath, and lead it out to water? Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham who was bound by Satan for eighteen years, be freed from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame and all the people rejoiced over all the glorious things that were done by him. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:9, 10a

A Psalm of David.

All the nations[, which] You have made,

will come and worship You, O Lord,

and they will glorify Your Name.

10 For You are great, and work wonders.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:28-34

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

One of the scribes came and heard them debating. Knowing that Jesus had answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”

Jesus answered, “The greatest is, ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The scribe said to him, “It is well, teacher, that you have said truly that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with the whole heart, and with the whole mind, with the whole soul, and with the whole strength; and to love one’s neighbor as oneself. It is more important than any whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that the scribe had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God!”

No one dared to ask him any [other] question after that. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 137:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,

and I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,

for You heard the words of my mouth.

I will bow down toward Your holy temple.

Alleluia.

##### John 8:21-27

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

Then, Jesus spoke to them again, “I am going away; you will seek me, and you will die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come.”

At this, the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”

Jesus said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you therefore that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {he}, you will die in your sins.”

Therefore, they asked him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning! I have much to say concerning you and [much] to condemn. these [things] I say to the world.”

They did not understand that he spoke to them about the Father. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 64:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

The words of the ungodly have overwhelm us.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 15:3-10

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

So Jesus told them this parable. “Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing! Coming home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, telling them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous who need no repentance.

Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins and lost one, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and look hard until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying: ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma coin which I had lost!’ Likewise, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, hear my prayer;

give ear to my supplication in Your truth;

Hear me in Your righteousness,

and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 23:13-39

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

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, ‘If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but inside, they are full of greed and excess. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and platter, so that the outside may also become clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood ofthe prophets.’ Therefore, you testify to yourselves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 38:13

A Psalm of David.

“Hear my prayer, O Lord,

and give ear to my supplication;

do not be silent at my tears.

For I am a sojourner before You,

and a stranger, as all my fathers were.”

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:1-8

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

Jesus also told them a parable [illustrating] that they must always pray and not give up, saying: “In a certain city, there was a judge who did not fear God and did not care [about anyone]. A widow lived in that city, and she often came to him, saying: ‘Defend me from my adversary!’ For a time, he would not [do anything], but after a while, he said to himself, ‘Although I neither fear God nor care for anyone, yet because this widow is bothering me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual visits.’”

The Lord said, “Listen to what the unrighteous judge has to say! Will not God grant justice to his elect who are crying out to him day and night, although he exercises patience regarding them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly! And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:2, 3a, 13

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

and let my cry come to You.

Do not turn Your face from me;

But You, O Lord, remain forever,

and Your remembrance is from generation to generations.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?”

They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*‘The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?’*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people considered him to be a prophet. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 32:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

He loves mercy and justice;

the earth is full of the Lord’s mercy.

By the Word of the Lord the heavens were established,

and by the breath of His mouth, all their hosts.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

Now, it was the Sabbath on that day. And so, the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath! It is not lawful for you to carry the mat!”

The man answered them, “He who made me well, that one said to me, ‘Take up your mat, and walk.’”

Then they asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your mat, and walk’?”

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

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

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

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 141:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I cried to the Lord with my voice,

I prayed with my voice to the Lord.

I will pour out my prayer before Him;

I will declare my affliction in His presence.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!”

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes!”

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or, ‘Get up, and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (then he said to the paralytic), “Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house.”

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 37:10

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, all my desire is before You,

and my groaning is not hidden from You.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:1-12

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

He began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a tower. He then rented it to tenant farmers and left for another country. When it was time, he sent a servant to the farmers to receive his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But they took the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty. Again, the owner sent another servant to them, and they threw stones at him, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. Again he sent another; and they killed him along with many others, beating some, and killing some. The man still had one left to send, his beloved son. Finally, he sent him to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the tenants of the vineyard said among themselves, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’ They took him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come to destroy the farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture:

‘*The very stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the head of the corner.*

*This is the Lord’s doing,*

*And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*

They kept trying to arrest Jesus, but they feared the multitude because they understood that he had spoken the parable against them. So they left him and went away. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 34:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Judge those who wrong me, O Lord;

fight against those who fight against me!

Take hold of weapon and shield,

and rise up to help me!

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 34:13

A Psalm of David.

I put on sackcloth

when they troubled me,

and I humbled my soul with fasting;

and my prayer will return into my bosom.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:22-30

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

All testified about him and marveled at the gracious words which came out of his mouth; and they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

He said to them, “With doubt, you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard was done at Capernaum, do also here in your hometown.’” He continued, “Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the land Elias was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian.”

As they heard these things, all were filled with wrath in the synagogue. They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to throw him off the cliff. But he, passing through their midst, went his way. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 41:2

A Psalm of David.

My soul longs for You, O God,

as the deer longs for springs of water.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:18-22

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

Once, as Jesus was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the multitudes say that I am?”

They answered, “‘John the Baptizer,’ but others say, ‘Elias,’ and others, that one of the old prophets is risen again.”

Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God!”

But he warned them, and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the presbyters, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:18,

A Psalm of David.

He regarded the prayer of the humble,

and will not despise their supplication;

to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion

and His praise in Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 7:1-20

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

Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came from Jerusalem and gathered to [see] Jesus. When they saw some of his disciples were eating bread with defiled (that is, unwashed) hands, they found fault. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews hold to the tradition of the presbyters and do not eat unless they wash their hands and forearms. [Also], they do not eat when they return from the marketplace unless they [first] bathe themselves; and there are many other things which they have received and observe: washings of cups, pitchers, bronze vessels, and couches.) The Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why is it that your disciples do not live by the tradition of the presbyters, but eat their bread with unwashed hands?”

Jesus answered them, “Well did Isaias prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*‘This people honors me with their lips,*

*but their heart is far from me.*

*But in vain do they worshipb before me,*

*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’*

Indeed, you set aside the commandment of God and hold fast to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.” He said to them, “How ingeniously do you reject the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother;’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever [support] you might have received from me is Corban (that is, dedicated to God)”’ then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or mother. Thus, you nullify the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many [other] things like this.”

Jesus called the entire crowd to himself and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand! There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile; it is what comes out of a person that defile the person. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!”

When he had entered into a house away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, “Are you also without understanding? Do you not perceive that whatever goes into someone from the outside cannot defile that person because it does not go into his heart but into the stomach, and then into the sewer (thus he declared all foods to be clean)?” He said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles that person. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,

for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:45-52

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

One of the experts in the law exclaimed, “Teacher, in saying this you insult us also.”

Jesus said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry, and you yourselves will not even lift one finger to help carry those burdens! Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. And so, you testify and consent to the works of your fathers! For they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Therefore, the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles. Some of them they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.’ Yes, I tell you that this generation will be charged with this blood. Woe to you experts of the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge; you yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 9:14

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O Lord;

see how my enemies have humiliated me,

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:9-19

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

He began to tell the people this parable. “A certain man planted a vineyard and rented it out to some farmers, and went into another country for a long time. At the proper season, he sent a servant to the farmers to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty. The owner then sent yet another servant, and they also beat him, treated him with contempt, and sent him away empty. The owner sent yet a third [servant], and they also wounded him, and threw him out. Then, the lord of the vineyard thought, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son! It may be that seeing him, they will respect him.’

But when the farmers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying: ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ So, they threw the son out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now, what will the lord of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy these farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they exclaimed, “May it never be!” But Jesus looked at them, and said, “Then what is this that is written:

*‘The stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the chief cornerstone?’*

*Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,*

*and it will crush to dust whoever it falls on.*

The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to lay hands on him that very hour, but they feared the people because they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Pslam 9:14c, 15ab

A Psalm of David.

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death,

that I may proclaim all Your praises

in the gates of daughter Zion.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:47-71

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who is believing in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life! Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, its purpose is that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, this one will live forever! Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

At this, the Jews disputed with one another, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks myblood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I li e because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!” He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Therefore, many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?”

But knowing in himself that his disciples grumbled at this, Jesus said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who were those who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him. He said, “For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

At this, many of his disciples went back and no longer walked with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life! We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus told them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And [yet] one of you is a devil!” Now, he was speaking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray him, and he was one of the Twelve. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 50:9, 10

A Psalm of David.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop,

and I will be cleansed;

You will wash me,

and I will be whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness;

my bones that were humbled will rejoice.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:14-21

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

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 33:6, 5a

A Psalm of David.

Come to Him and be enlightened,

and your faces will never be ashamed.

I sought the Lord and He heard me.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:1-13

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

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

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

Nicodemus asked him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can heenter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born [anew]?”

Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How can these things be?”

Jesus replied and said, “You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 78:8bc, 9ab

A Psalm of David.

Let Your compassion overtake us quickly,

for we have become very poor.

Help us, O God, our Saviour,

… for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!”

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes!”

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or, ‘Get up, and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (then he said to the paralytic), “Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house.”

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

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

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered.

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

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:46-52

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

Then, they arrived in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving the city with his disciples and a great crowd, the son of Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus cried out even more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stood still and said, “Call him.”

They called the blind man and said to him, “Cheer up! Get up! He is calling you!”

Having thrown his cloak aside, he got up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man replied, “Rabboni, that I may see again!”

Jesus said to him, “Be on your way! Your faith has made you well.” Immediately, the man received his sight and followed him along the way. Glory be to God forever.

## The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:3, 5

A Psalm of David.

You tested my heart when You visited me in the night;

You tried me by fire,

and found nothing unjust in me.

Restore my steps in Your paths,

that my feet may not slip.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:22-35

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

Jesus was on his way through cities and villages, teaching and traveling onward to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are those who are saved [only] a few?”

Jesus replied, “Do your utmost to enter in by the narrow door! For I tell you that many will try to enter, but they will not be able. Once the master of the house has risen up and shut the door, you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying: ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But then, he will answer, ‘I do not know you or where you come from!’ Then you will start saying, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets!’ But the master will reply, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from! Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.’ In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. People will come from the east, west, north, and south, and they will have a place in the Kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!”

Jesus replied, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside ofJerusalem.’

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name ofthe Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 25:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;

test my heart and mind in fire.

For Your mercy is before my eyes,

and I delight in Your truth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 23:1-39

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

Jesus then spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses. Therefore, whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but do not imitate their works; for they preach and [yet] do not act accordingly. Indeed, they bind heavy burdens that are dreadful to bear and put them on people’s shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them. Instead, they do all their works be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad, they enlarge the fringes of their garments, and love the place of honor at feasts. They love the best seats in the synagogues, the greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ by people. But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers. Call no man on the earth ‘your father’, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven. And do not be called ‘teacher’, for one is your teacher, the Christ. But the one who is the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, ‘If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?’ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but inside, they are full of greed and excess. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and platter, so that the outside may also become clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood ofthe prophets.’ Therefore, you testify to yourselves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:7abc, 1ab

A Psalm of David.

Hear me quickly, O Lord:

my spirit has failed.

Do not turn Your face from me,

O Lord, hear my prayer;

give ear to my supplication in Your truth.

Alleluia.

##### John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but [it was] in order that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva and anointed the blind man’s eyes with the mud. He then said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbors and those who saw that he had been blind before said, “Is this not the man who sat and begged?” Others were saying, “It is he!” Still others were saying, “He looks like him.”

The man said, “I am he!” Therefore, the people asked him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered, “A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.’ And so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they asked him, “Where is he?”

The man replied, “I do not know.”

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see!”

At this, some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was division among them. Therefore, they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

He said, “He is a prophet!”

The Jews did not believe [the report] about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of this man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, this person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age. Ask him!”

And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!”

At this, the man answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!”

Again, asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?”

Then they insulted him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

The man answered them, “How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

The man answered, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe!” and he worshiped Jesus.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see; and so that those who see may become blind.”

The Pharisees who were present heard these things, and they asked Jesus, “Are we also blind?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see!’ and therefore, your sin remains. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 40:2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 8:22-26

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

When he arrived at Bethsaida, people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand and brought him out of the village. He spit on his eyes, laid his hands on the man, and asked him if he saw anything.

The man looked up and said, “I see people! I see them like trees walking!”

Again, Jesus laid his hands on the man’s eyes who then looked [around] intently. His sight was then restored and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not enter into the village and do not tell anyone in the village.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 31:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,

and glory, all you upright in heart.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.’

But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.’

He said, ‘I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father’s house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.’

But Abraham replied to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!’

But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

Then Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:12, 13

A Psalm of David.

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

And I will glorify Your Name forever,

for Your mercy towards me is great,

and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:31-47

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

If I bear witness about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who bears witness to me, and I know that the testimony by which he bears witness about me is true. You have sent [messengers] to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things so that you may be saved. John was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, because the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, they bear witness about me, that the Father has sent me. The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. You have never heard his voice at any time, and you have never seen his outward appearance. You do not have his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God’s love in yourselves. I have come in my Father’s Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?” Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 37:19, 20a

A Psalm of David.

For I confess my iniquity,

and I am anxious about my sin.

But my enemies live, and are stronger than I.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:1-10

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

Jesus told the disciples, “It is impossible that no occasions of stumbling should come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for such a person to have a millstone hung around the neck and be thrown into the sea, rather than to cause any of these little ones to stumble. Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

The apostles also said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,’ and it would obey you!

But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or sheepherding, that will say when that servant returns from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at the table.’ Instead, will you not tell him, ‘Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me while I eat and drink. Afterwards, you may eat and drink’? Does the master thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not! So you also, when you have done all those things which you are commanded [to do], say, ‘We are unworthy servants, we have [only] done our duty!’” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 50:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin,

for I know my iniquity,

and my sin is ever before me.

Alleluia.

##### John 12:36b-43

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

After Jesus had said this, he left and hid from them. But even though he had performed so many signs in front of them, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaias the prophet:

*Lord, who has believed our report?*

*To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

For this reason, they could not believe, for Isaias said elsewhere:

*He has blinded their eyes and he hardened their heart,*

*lest they should see with their eyes,*

*and perceive with their heart,*

*and would turn,*

*and I would heal them.*

Isaias said these things when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Still, even many among the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it [openly], so that they would not be put out of the synagogue, for they loved human praise more than God’s praise. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 56:2

A Psalm of David.

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

for my soul trusts in You;

and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings

until iniquity passes away.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:28-35

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

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying: ‘This man began to build and he was not able to finish!’ Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with twenty thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 50:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin,

for I know my iniquity,

and my sin is ever before me.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:35-45

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

Jesus told them, “I am the bread of life! The one who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet, you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who is coming to me I will in no way reject. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but [to do] the will of the one who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me: that of all he has given me, I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and this one I will raise up on the last day.”

At this, the Jews began to murmur concerning him, because he had said, “I am the bread which came down out of heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

Therefore, Jesus answered them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and this one I will raise up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Therefore, everyone who hears from the Father and has learned comes to me. Glory be to God forever.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 62:2

A Psalm of David.

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You;

My soul thirsts for You…

[that my flesh might blossom for You]

in a desolate, trackless and waterless land?

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 20:20-28

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

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking a certain thing of him. He said to her, “What do you want?”

She said to him, “Command that these, my two sons, may sit, one on your right hand, and one on your left hand, in your Kingdom.”

But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to him, “We are able!”

Jesus answered, “You will indeed drink my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with, but to sit on my right and on left hand is not mine to give! It is [reserved] for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard [about] this, they were upset with the two brothers.

However, Jesus called them together, and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and great ones make their authority felt. But it shall not be so among you! Instead, whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your servant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 121:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I was glad when they said to me,

“we will go to the house of the Lord.”

Our feet stood

in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:18-27

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

Then Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to him. They asked him, “Teacher, Moses wrote to us, ‘If a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife behind him but no children, his brother should take his wife, and raise up an offspring for his brother.’ There were seven brothers. The first took a wife, died, and left no offspring. The second [brother] took her and [also] died, leaving no children behind him. The third likewise; and so the seven [brothers] married her and left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For the seven [brothers] had her as a wife.”

Jesus answered them, “Is this not why you are mistaken, by not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God? For when people {will} rise from the dead, they do not marry or are given in marriage; instead, they are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead are raised, have not you read in the book of Moses (in the passage about the Bush), how God spoke to him, saying: ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living! This is why you are greatly misled.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Last Friday of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 97:4, 5, 6a

A Psalm of David.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing and rejoice, and sing psalms.

Make music to the Lord with a lyre,

with a lyre and the tune of a psalm.

With metal trumpets and the trumpet of the horn.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:20-37

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

Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them, “The Kingdom of God does not come with observation! Neither will people say, ‘Look, here!’ or, ‘Look, there!’ for behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Jesus told the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. People will tell you, ‘Look, here!’ or ‘Look, there!’ Do not go away or follow [them], for as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first, he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People ate, drank, got married, were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered into the ship; and the flood came, destroying them all. Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot: people ate, drank, bought, sold, planted and built. But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from the sky which destroyed them all. It will be the same in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, whoever is on the housetop, [having] his goods in the house, should not go down to take them away! Likewise, whoever is in the field should not return. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you that in that night, there will be two people in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. There will be two grinding grain together. One will be taken, and the other will be left.” Two will be in the field: one will be taken, and the other left.

In reply, the disciples asked him, “Where, Lord?”

He said to them, “Where the body is, there the eagles will also be assembled.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 97:8b, 9

A Psalm of David.

The mountains will rejoice [before the Lord];

for He comes to judge the earth;

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with uprightness.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 13:31-35

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

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!”

Jesus replied, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.’

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name ofthe Lord!’” Glory be to God forever.