The Prophecy Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle and Prophet Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Great Lent

## The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

### Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

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

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

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me.” But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came about a mighty tempest, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, attempting to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, had gone to sleep, and was snoring.

The captain came to him and said, “Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe so we do not perish.” And each one said to his shipmate, “Come! Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this calamity is upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then they said to him, “Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you did?” For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?” For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, “Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me.”

And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said, “Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about.” So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows.

Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

##### Jonas 2:2-11

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

And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said:

“I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God,

And He heard my voice;

Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,

And rivers encompassed me;

All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.

And I said, ‘I have been driven away from Your sight;

Shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me to my soul;

The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,

The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.

When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord.

May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You,

To You, the Lord of Deliverance.”

Then the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast up Jonah onto the dry land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

#### The Prophecies

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

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

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach there according to the message I previously spoke to you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, just as the Lord spoke. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city to God, a journey of about three days. And Jonah began to enter into the city, going a day’s journey, where he proclaimed and said, “Yet three days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”

And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, “Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water.” So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying, “Who knows if God shall have a change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

But Jonah was deeply grieved and was troubled. So he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? Therefore I saw the need to flee to Tarshish; because I knew You to be compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and willing to change your heart concerning evils. And now, Master, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

And the Lord said to Jonah, “Are you exceedingly grieved?” Then Jonah went out of the city and seated himself opposite it. There he made for himself a tent and sat under its shade, until he might observe what would happen to the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah to be a shade over his head, to shield him from his discomforts. Jonah rejoiced with great joy because of the gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. And when the sun rose, God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” Then God said to Jonah, “Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?” And he said, “I am exceedingly grieved, even unto death.” And the Lord said, “You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know either their right hand or their left—and many livestock?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

### Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

Now in the course of time, it happened that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of their labors and cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the labors. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then God looked upon the children of Israel and was made known to them.

Now Moses was tending the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. Then he led them to the back of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed.”

When therefore the Lord saw him turn aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!” Then he said, “Here I am.” So He said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 1:2-18

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

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: “I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me.” Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom. Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: “What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” says the Lord. “I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of lambs. I do not desire the blood of bulls and he-goats. When you come to appear before Me, who required these things from your hands to tread My court? Although you should bring fine wheat flour, it is vain. Incense is an abomination to Me. I cannot endure your new moons, and Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, and fasting and holy day. Your new moons and feasts My soul hates. You have become a dissatisfaction to Me; I will not forgive your sins. When you stretch forth your hands to Me, I will turn My eyes from you. Although you make many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.” For her captives shall be saved with judgment and with mercy. The lawless and sinners shall be destroyed together. Those who forsake the Lord shall come to an end. For they shall be ashamed of the idols they desired and the gardens they longed for. For they shall be as a terebinth tree that has lost its leaves; like a garden with no water. Their strength shall be as broken fiber and their works as sparks of fire. The lawless and the sinners will burn together, and no one shall quench them.

The word that came from the Lord to Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. Many Gentiles shall travel and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:7-13

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

Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.’

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men’s wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 2:3-11

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

Many Gentiles shall travel and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it.” For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the Gentiles and rebuke many people. They shall beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O now, house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. For He forsook His people, the house of Israel, for as from the beginning, their land is filled with divinations—like the land of foreigners—and many children of foreigners were born to them. Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures. Their land is also filled with horses; there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also filled with the abominations of their works, and they worship the works of their hands, which their fingers made. A man bows down and each man humbles himself, but I will not forgive them. Enter now into the rocks and hide in the earth from the face of the Lord, for fear and the glory of His might when He rises to smite the earth. For the eyes of the Lord are lofty, and man is humble. The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:12-27

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

Now says the Lord your God, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate. He is longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?”

Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom go out from his bedchamber and the bride out of her bridal chamber. Between the porch and the altar, the priests of the altar, ministering to the Lord, will each be weeping and will say, “O Lord, spare Your people; do not give Your inheritance to reproach, that the Gentiles should rule over them, lest they should say among the Gentiles, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

God’s Blessing upon His People

But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. And the Lord answered His people and said, “Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, and I will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up, because he has done powerful works.”

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other but Me. And at no time will My people be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every mountain and lofty hill, and upon every high tower and fortified wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. But they shall hide all the things made by hands. They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord’s presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Zecharias 8:18-23

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

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’ Thus says the Lord Almighty: ‘Yet many people will have come and those inhabiting many cities; and the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, “Let us go to beseech the Lord and to seek out the face of the Lord Almighty; and I will go also.” And many peoples and many nations will come to seek out the presence of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem and to obtain the favor of the presence of the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord Almighty, ‘In those days, if ten men from all the tongues of the nations stop you, even if they grab hold of the hem of a Jewish man, they will be saying, “We will go with you, for we heard God is with you.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you—‘to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ”

These are the ordinances and the judgments the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the desert, when they came from the land of Egypt: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power. So these words I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and it shall be immovable before your eyes; and you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

“So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities you did not build, and houses full of all good things you did not fill, and hewn-out wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—and when you have eaten and are full— then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brings you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall cling to Him and take oaths in His name. You shall not go after different gods, the gods of the nations around you, because the Lord your God is a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God, as you tempted Him in the Temptation. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and the ordinances He commanded you. So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and you may go in and inherit the good land the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase out all your enemies from before your face, as He said.

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are the testimonies, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded you?’ you shall say to your son, ‘We were servants of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; and the Lord set great and evil signs affecting Egypt, Pharaoh, and his house before us. Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in to give us this land He swore to give our fathers. So the Lord commanded us to do all these ordinances, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, and we may live as today. Then we shall have mercy, if we are careful to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as the Lord commanded us.’

“Now if the Lord your God brings you into the land you go to inherit, and casts out great nations before your face, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, you shall strike and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show them mercy. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, nor take his daughter for your son. For she will turn your son away from Me, and he will serve other gods; so the Lord will be very angry with you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their pillars, and cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire.

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God chose you to be a people for Himself, special above all the nations on the face of the earth. The Lord did not prefer nor choose you because you were more in number than all the nations, for you are the least of all the nations; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath He swore to your fathers, the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know, the Lord your God, this God, is a faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with those who hate Him; He will repay them to their face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments, the ordinances, and these judgments I command you today to do them.

“Then it shall come to pass, when you listen to all these ordinances and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy He swore to your fathers; and He will love you and bless and multiply you; He will also bless the offspring of your womb, and the fruit of your land: your grain, wine, and olive oil, and the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep, in the land the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed more than all the nations; there shall not be a childless male or a barren female among you or your cattle. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and He will not put on you the evil diseases you saw and knew in Egypt, but will put them on all who hate you. Also you shall eat all the spoils of the nations the Lord your God gives you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

“If you should say in your mind, ‘This nation is greater than I; how will I be able to destroy them?’ you shall not be afraid of them, but shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all the Egyptians: the great trials your eyes saw, those great signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord our God do to all the nations of whose face you are afraid. Moreover the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. You shall not be terrified of their face; for the Lord your God is among you, a great and powerful God; and the Lord your God will consume those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the land become a desert and the wild animals increase against you. But the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands and destroy them with a great destruction, until they are destroyed. So He will deliver their kings into your hands, and will destroy their name from that place; no one shall be able to stand against your presence until you destroy them. You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not desire the silver or gold of theirs, nor take it for yourselves, lest you stumble because of it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Judah and from Jerusalem the strong man and the strong woman; the strength of bread and the strength of water; the mighty man and the man of war; the judge, the prophet, the diviner, and the elder; the captain of fifty, the wonderful counselor, the skillful artisan, and the prudent disciple. “I will give children to be their princes, and mockers shall rule over them. The people will collapse, every one on another and every one on his neighbor. The child will be arrogant toward the elder and vulgar toward the honorable.” When a man takes hold of his brother or his father’s servant, saying, “You have clothing; you be our ruler and let my food be under your roof.” In that day, he will protest, saying, “I will not be your ruler, for in my house there is neither food nor clothing. I will not be the ruler of this people.” For Jerusalem is ruined and Judah is fallen, because their tongues are lawless and they are disobedient to the Lord. Now their glory is humbled. The shame on their face witnesses against them. They declare and exhibit their sin as Sodom. Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, saying, “Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us.” They shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. “O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet.” The Lord stands up to plead and stands to judge His people. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The First Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 3:6-14

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

Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses then hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow. So I came down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt?” Then God said to Moses, “I will be with you, and this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” So Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I tell them?”

Then God said to Moses, “I AM the Existing One.” He also said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Existing One sent me to you.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion, and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from their midst by the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning. He shall come and there shall be with regard to Mt. Zion and everything round about, a cloud to overshadow it by day, and as it were smoke and light of fire burning at night, and it shall be covered altogether with glory. It shall be for shade from the heat, for a place of shelter, and for a hiding-place from inclement weather and rain.

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.” For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Job 19:1-27

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

Then Job answered and said:

“How long will you weary my soul

And take me down with words?

Only know how the Lord has dealt with me thus.

You speak against me, and while shaming me,

You press hard on me.

Yes indeed, I have truly erred; my error lodges with me.

When I speak words which I should not have spoken,

My words go astray and are unseasonable.

Alas! You exalt yourselves against me

And attack me with disgrace.

Know therefore that the Lord has troubled me

And raised His stronghold against me.

Behold, I laugh at disgrace and I will not speak.

Nor will I cry out, for judgment is nowhere to be found.

I am walled in round about and cannot cross over,

For He has set darkness before my face.

He stripped me of my glory

And took the crown from my head.

He has torn me apart on every side, and I am gone.

He has uprooted my hope like a tree.

He handled me vehemently in wrath

And has counted me like an enemy.

His raiders came against me with one accord.

They encircled my paths and lay in wait.

“My brothers stood far from me

And recognized strangers rather than me.

So my friends became unmerciful.

My relatives acted as though they did not know me,

And my close friends have forgotten me.

As for my neighbors and the maidservants of my house,

I was a stranger before them.

I called my servant, but he gave no answer,

Though I begged him with my mouth.

I also entreated my wife,

And summoned the children of my concubines and flattered them.

But they rejected me forever.

When I arise, they speak against me.

Those who know me detest me,

And those whom I truly love turned against me.

The muscles of my body have decayed under my skin,

And my bones are held in my teeth.

“Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O friends,

For the hand of the Lord has touched me.

Why do you persecute me as the Lord does,

And are not satisfied because of my flesh?

“For who may commit my words to writing,

To put them in a book forever,

With an iron pen and lead,

Or to engrave them in rocks?

For I know He is everlasting,

He who is about to set me free on the earth

And to raise up my skin that endures these things;

For these have been accomplished for me by the Lord;

Which I myself am conscious of,

And my eyes have beheld, and not those of another.

All has been accomplished for me in my bosom.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:7-16

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

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them. 10r where ten yoke of oxen shall work, the land shall yield one jar, and whoever sows six homers shall receive three measures. Woe to those who rise early in the morning to follow intoxicating drink; to those who continue until night, for wine shall inflame them. For they drink wine with the harp, the strings, the tambourine and flute, but they do not look at the deeds of the Lord, nor consider the works of His hands!

Therefore my people became captives, because they did not know the Lord; and a multitude died through hunger and thirst for water. Hades enlarged itself and opened its mouth continually. The glorious, the great, the wealthy, and the troublesome shall descend into it. A man shall be humiliated, and a man shall be dishonored; and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the Holy God shall be glorified in righteousness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 2:11-20

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

Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren of the sons of Israel. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbor?” He replied, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” So Moses was alarmed and said, “Surely this thing is known.” Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, “How is it you came so soon today?” They replied, “An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us and watered our sheep.” So he said to his daughters, “And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 5:17-25

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

Those plundered shall be fed as bulls, and lambs shall eat on the waste places of those taken away.

Woe to those who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope and lawlessness as with the strap of a cow’s yoke, who say, “Let Him speedily hasten what He will do that we may see it, and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know it!” Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Malachi 1:6-3:6\*

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

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?” says the Lord Almighty. “You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, ‘In what way have we disparaged Your name?’ You offer defiled bread on My altar, but you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept these from you?” says the Lord Almighty. “For this reason, even among you the doors will be shut, and you will not burn an offering on My altar. I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord Almighty, “nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My name has been glorified among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering, for My name shall be great among the Gentiles,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you profane it in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled; and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And you said, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And I have blown these away,” says the Lord Almighty. “And you bring prey, the lame, and the sick, and when you bring an offering, should I accept these from your hands?” says the Lord Almighty. “But cursed be the man who is able, who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—for I am a great King,” says the Lord Almighty, “and My name is glorious among the nations.

“And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; indeed I will curse it, and I will scatter your blessing, and you will have it no more because you do not take this to heart. Behold, I am turning my back on you, and I will smear dung on your faces, the dung of your feasts, and I will carry you away at the same time. Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant is with the sons of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty.

“My covenant of life and peace was with him, and I gave this to him that he might reverently fear Me, that he might be established before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from lawlessness. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.

“But you have departed from the way; you weakened many in the law and corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty. “Therefore I also made you contemptible and disregarded before all nations, because you have not guarded My ways but have shown partiality in the law.”

Did not one God create you? Do you not all have one father? Why, then, does each of you forsake his brother to profane the covenant of your fathers? Judah was forsaken, and an abomination has occurred in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah profaned the holy things of the Lord, which He loved, and sought out foreign gods. The Lord will destroy the man who does these things until he is humiliated from the tents of Jacob and from among those who offer sacrifice to the Lord Almighty.

And you do these things which I hate. You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and moaning because of troubles, yet still thinking it is worthy to look upon your sacrifice or take it as acceptable from your hands. And you say, “Why?” Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you have forsaken; yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. But did He not make another, having a remnant of His Spirit? Yet you ask, “What else does God seek but offspring?” But take heed to your spirit, and do not forsake the wife of your youth. “But if you hate her and send her away,” says the Lord God of Israel, “ungodliness will obscure your thinking,” says the Lord Almighty. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not forsake her.” You weary the Lord with your words, yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord Almighty. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner’s fire and as soap in one’s wash. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold. He will purify the sons of Levi and pour them out as purified gold and silver, and they will bring an offering to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

“And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, those who exploit wage-earners, those who oppress widows and afflict orphans, those who pervert the justice due foreigners, and those who do not fear Me,” says the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob, have not abstained [from the sins of your fathers.]

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 5:15-22

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

Remember, you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God ordered you to guard the Sabbath day and to sanctify it.

‘Honor your father and mother in the manner the Lord your God commanded you, that it may be well with you, and you may be a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

‘You shall not murder.

‘You shall not commit adultery.

‘You shall not steal.

‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not covet your neighbor’s house, neither his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or his cattle, or anything belonging to your neighbor.’

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 6:1-12

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

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, “Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!” Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth, and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed.” I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?” Then I said, “Behold, here am I, send me.” So He said, “Go, and tell this people, ‘You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.’ For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them.” Then I said, “Lord, how long?” So He answered, “Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joshua 2:1-6:26\*

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

After this, Joshua the son of Nun sent out two young men from Acacia Grove to spy out the land, saying, “Go and see the land and Jericho.” So the two young men went and entered Jericho; and they went into the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. This was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come to spy on the land.” So the king of Jericho sent and spoke to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who came into your house last night; for they are here to spy on the land.”

But the woman took the men and hid them, and she spoke to them, saying, “The men came to me; but as the gate was being shut in the darkness, the men went out. I do not know where they went. Pursue them, if indeed you may overtake them.” But she led them to the roof and hid them in the stalk of flax she had piled together on the roof.

So the men searched for them along the road to the Jordan, to the fords, and the gate was closed. Then it came to pass, when the men who pursued them went after them and before the spies went to sleep, that she went to them on the roof and said, “I know that the Lord gave you the land, for fear of you has fallen upon us. For we heard that the Lord God dried up the Red Sea before you when you came out of the land of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and to Og, whom you utterly destroyed. So when we heard it, we were amazed in our heart, and there was no longer any spirit in any of us because of your presence, for your God is in heaven above and on earth below. Now therefore, swear to me by the Lord God that as I showed you mercy, you shall also be merciful to me in my father’s house, and capture alive all my house: my father and mother, and my brothers, and everything they have, and deliver my soul from death.”

Then the men said to her, “Our life for your life, even to death.” She then said, “When the Lord shall deliver the city to you, deal with me in mercy and truth.” After this, she let them down through the window and said to them, “Go away to the hill country, lest the pursuers happen to find you. Hide there for three days until your pursuers return from their search for you. Afterwards, you shall depart and go your way.”

So the men said to her, “We will be without fault regarding this oath of yours. For behold, we will come into a part of the city, and you will set a sign; you shall hang this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down. Then you shall gather yourself and your father and mother and your brothers into your father’s house. Whoever shall go outside the door of your house, his guilt shall be upon him, and we will be free of this oath of yours. But we will be responsible for whoever is with you in your house. But if anyone injures us or reveals these words of ours, we shall be free from this oath of yours.” Then she said to them, “Let it be so according to your word.” So she sent them away.

They departed and went to the hill country and remained there for three days; and the pursuers searched all the roads, but did not find them. So the two young men returned and came down from the mountain. They crossed over to Joshua the son of Nun and told him everything that happened to them. They said to Joshua, “The Lord will deliver all the land into our hand, for everyone who inhabits that land cowers in fear because of us.”

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and departed from Acacia Grove; and he came to the Jordan and lodged there before crossing over. After three days, it came to pass that the scribes went through the camp and commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and Levites who carry it, then you shall depart from your places; and you shall go after it; but there shall be a distance between you and it. You shall stand as much as two thousand cubits from it, and do not come near it, that you may understand the way you are to go; for you have not gone this way before.” Joshua then said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua also said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and go before the people.” So the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and went before the people.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.”

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight.’ ” So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, “Draw near in front of me in the Lord’s presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ then you will declare to your son, saying, ‘The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over’; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever.”

So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan until Joshua had completed all the Lord commanded him to proclaim to the people; and the people hastened and crossed over.

Then it came to pass, when all the people finished crossing over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord crossed over, and the stones before them. The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh also crossed over, well-armed before the sons of Israel, as Moses commanded them. Forty thousand men armed for war crossed before the Lord for battle against the city of Jericho. On that day, the Lord magnified Joshua before all the nation of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses.

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua saying, “Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord to come up from the Jordan.” So Joshua commanded the priests, saying, “Go out from the Jordan.” Then it came to pass, when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stepped out from the Jordan and set their feet on land, the water of the Jordan returned to its place, and went as before over all its banks.

Now the people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel camped at Gilgal in the region eastward from Jericho. Then Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones he took from the Jordan, saying, “When your children ask you, ‘What are these stones?’ then tell your children that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we crossed over; that all the nations of the land might know that the power of the Lord is mighty; and that you might worship the Lord your God in every age.”

Then it came to pass, when the kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan and the kings of the Phoenicians near the sea heard that the Lord God had dried up the Jordan River before the children of Israel when they crossed over, their minds fainted, they were panic-stricken, and there was no more sense left in them because of the presence of the children of Israel.

At about this time, the Lord said to Joshua, “Make stone knives for yourself from a sharp rock, and sit down and circumcise the sons of Israel.” So Joshua made sharp stone knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at the place called the Hill of Foreskins. In this manner, Joshua completely purified the sons of Israel, as many as were born at any time along the way and as many as were uncircumcised after they came out of Egypt. Joshua circumcised all these. For Israel lived in the Madbarite desert for forty-two years; therefore, most of their fighting men who came out of Egypt and who disobeyed the commandments of God were uncircumcised. Concerning these, He also determined that they would not see the land which the Lord swore to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. But in their place, He raised up their sons, whom Joshua circumcised because they were born during the journey and thus were uncircumcised. So when they were circumcised, they rested there and stayed in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, “Today I have removed the disgrace of Egypt from you.” Thus he called the name of that place Gilgal.

Then the children of Israel kept Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. They ate of the unleavened and new wheat of the land. On this day, the manna ceased, after they ate from the wheat of the land. Thus, the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruits in the land of the Phoenicians in that year.

Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, “Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?” He said to him, “I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord.” Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth and said to him, “O Master, what do you command your servant?” The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, “Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy.”

Jericho was enclosed and fortified, and no one went out of or into it. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Behold, I will deliver Jericho into your hand, its king and its army of soldiers who are mighty. But place your soldiers around it, and it shall come to pass that when you sound with the trumpet, let all the people shout together, and when they shout, the walls of the city shall fall by themselves; and all the people will enter, each rushing throughout the entire area of the city.”

So Joshua the son of Nun went to the priests and he spoke to them, saying, “Command the people to go around and surround the city, and let the men of war pass on armed before the Lord. Let seven priests holding seven holy trumpets likewise pass by before the Lord, and let them signal vigorously; and let the ark of the covenant of the Lord follow after them. Let the men of war go in front; and let the priests be the rear guard behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord as they proceed, and sound the trumpets.”

Now Joshua gave a command to the people, saying, “Do not shout, nor let anyone hear your voice, until the day I myself tell you to shout, and then shout.” So when the ark of the covenant of God went around the city, it immediately returned into the camp and lodged there. Then on the second day, Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Seven priests carried seven trumpets and went on before the Lord. The armed men followed after with the rest of the multitude behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then the priests sounded the trumpets, and all the rest of the multitude encircled the city from close by, then again went back to the camp. They did this for six days.

On the seventh day, they rose early in the morning and went around the city six times. Then it came to pass that as they marched around the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Shout, for indeed the Lord has handed over the city to you. For the city shall be accursed by the Lord, it and whatever is in it. However, preserve Rahab the harlot and whatever is in her house. But be very careful to keep yourself from what is accursed, lest you yourself consider to take from it what is accursed, and then you shall make the camp of the children of Israel a curse and destroy us. But all the silver, the gold, the bronze or the iron shall be holy to the Lord and brought in to the treasury of the Lord.” So the priests sounded the trumpets, and when the people heard the sound of the trumpets, all the people shouted together with a great and mighty shout. Then the entire wall fell round about, and all the people went into the city.

Joshua put the city under a curse with the edge of the sword, and whatever was in it: from man to woman, from young man to old man, and from calf to donkey. Then Joshua said to the two young men who acted as spies, “Go into the house of the woman, and bring her out from there, and whatever she has.” So the two young men who had spied out the city went into the house of the woman and brought out Rahab the harlot, her father and mother, and her brothers and kindred, and all she possessed. They set her outside the camp of Israel, and the city, with everyone in it, was set on fire; but the silver, the gold, the bronze, and the iron they brought into the treasury of the Lord.

Thus Joshua kept alive Rahab the harlot and all the house of her father, and caused her to dwell in Israel to this very day, because she hid the spies Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Joshua adjured Israel on that day before the Lord, saying, “Cursed be the man who rebuilds that city. He shall lay its foundation in his firstborn son, and he shall set up its gates with his youngest son.” Thus did Hiel from Bethel. He laid its foundation in Abiram, his firstborn son, and he set up its gates with Segub, his youngest surviving son.

So the Lord was with Joshua, and his name was known throughout all the land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

“Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper. Thus you shall eat and be full and bless the Lord your God for the good land He gave you.

“Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days— then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’ Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

“Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?’ Therefore understand today, the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God consumes these nations before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land’; but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

Now the Philistines brought their armies together for battle, and they gathered at Sochoh of Judah. They encamped between Sochoh and Azekah in Ephes Dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel gathered, and they were encamped in the valley. They were to set up in battle formation opposite the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

And a mighty man went out from the battle line of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath. His height was four cubits and a span. He had a helmet on his head, and he wore a breastplate of chain mail; and the weight of his breastplate was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. And he had armor made of bronze on his legs and a bronze shield between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like the beam of a loom, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels. A shield-bearer went before him. Then he stood and shouted out to the armies of Israel and said to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and you Hebrews of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I am able to kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” And the Philistine said, “Look! This very day I challenge the ranks of the armies of Israel. Give me a man that the two of us can fight one on one.” When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

But David said to Saul, “Let not the heart of my lord fall in regards to him. Your servant will go and fight with this foreigner.” And Saul said to David, “No, you are not able to go to the Philistine to fight him, since you are a young man, and he is a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to tend the flock for his father, and when a lion or a bear came and took a sheep out of the flock, I followed it and struck it, and delivered the sheep from its mouth. And as it arose against me, I caught it by its throat and struck and killed it. Your servant smote both the lion and the bear; and the uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them to me. Will I not go and kill him today, and remove the reproach of Israel? For who is this uncircumcised one who challenged the ranks of the armies of Israel? The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!”

So Saul clothed David with armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head, and he girded David with his sword over his armor. David made a trial walking with them a time or two. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to go with these, for I have not tested them.” So they removed them. Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook. He put them in a shepherd’s bag to store away, and in his hand was his sling. He then approached the Philistine.

And when Goliath saw David, he disdained him; for he was a young boy, ruddy with a good countenance. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I as a dog, that you come against me with a staff and stones?” Then David said, “No, worse than a dog!” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven and the beasts of the field!”

24Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord Sabaoth, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you reproached today. 25Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you. And this day I will give your carcass and the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands.”

And the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out one stone. He slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone penetrated through his helmet and into his forehead. He fell to the ground on his face. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore, David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword, and killed him and cut off his head. And the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled.

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon. Then the men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. He put his armor in his tent.

From all the cities of Israel, women came out dancing with tambourines, with joy, and with cymbals to greet David. And the women began a song and sang, “Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

These words seemed evil in the eyes of Saul, and he said to David, “They ascribed to you ten thousands, and to me they ascribed only thousands.” So from that day forward, Saul eyed David with suspicion,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 7:1-14

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

And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, there came up Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it; but they could not conquer it. Then it was reported to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces made an agreement with Ephraim.” So his soul and the soul of his people was confounded, as a tree of the woods is shaken by the wind. Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, and say to him, ‘Guard yourself and be silent; do not fear, neither let your soul be disheartened because of these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for when My fierce anger is over, again I shall heal. The son of Syria and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, “Let us go up against Judah and talk with them, and let us turn them to our side, and let us make the son of Tabel king of it.” Thus says the Lord of hosts: “This counsel shall not continue, nor shall it come to pass. But the head of Syria is Damascus; nevertheless, in sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim will cease being a people. Also the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son, and if you do not believe this, neither will you understand it.” ’ ”

Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 11:1-20

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

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“He who speaks much should also listen in turn,

Or does the fluent speaker think himself to be righteous?

Blessed is the short-lived offspring of a woman.

Do not be wordy in your speech,

For there is no one to reply to you.

Do not say, ‘I am pure in my works

And blameless before Him.’

But how does the Lord speak to you?

He will open His lips against you.

Then He will declare to you the power of wisdom,

For it shall be double in your case.

At that time you will know a worthy recompense

Has come to you from the Lord because of your sins.

Will you find the traces of the Lord?

Have you reached the outer extremities

Of what the Almighty has made?

Heaven is high, and what will you do?

And what do you know,

For there are even deeper things in Hades?

Do you know those dimensions

That are longer than the earth and broader than the sea?

If He should overthrow everything,

Who then will say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

For He knows the works of the lawless;

And when He sees wrongs, He shall not overlook them.

But man vainly swims in words,

And a mortal born of a woman is equal to a donkey in the desert.

If you have made your heart pure

And stretch out your hands toward Him,

If something lawless is done by your hands,

Put it far away from you;

And do not let any wrongdoing lodge in your dwelling.

For in this way, your face will shine forth like pure water,

For you will cleanse away the filth. You will not fear.

Then you will forget this hardship

Like a wave that has passed away;

And you will not be terrified.

Your prayer will be like the morning star.

At midday, life will rise to you.

You will be confident because you have hope;

And peace shall bring light to you out of anxiety and care.

You will also be at rest,

And there will be no one to fight against you.

Many will change their mind about you and supplicate you.

But salvation will forsake them, for their hope will be lost,

And the eyes of the ungodly will melt away.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 1:20-35 (should this be 33?)

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

Wisdom sings in the streets;

She moves boldly in the squares.

She preaches on high city walls

And sits at the gates of lords.

At the gates of a city she boldly says,

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

They shall not be ashamed;

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

And are become ungodly, they hate perception,

And are become subject to reproofs.

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

And I shall teach you my word.

Since I called, but you did not obey,

And spoke at length, but you paid no attention,

But made my counsels invalid,

And were not persuaded by my reproofs;

Consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation,

And will exult when ruin comes to you,

And when confusion reaches you unawares,

And overthrow comes like a whirlwind,

And when tribulation and anguish come to you,

And when destruction comes to you.

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

I will not listen to you;

Evil men will seek me, but not find me,

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

Neither do they wish to follow my counsels,

But despise my reproofs.

Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way

And be filled with their own ungodliness.

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

And a close examination shall destroy the ungodly.

But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope,

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 8:13-9:6 (should this be 7?)

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 2:1-15

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

My son, if you receive the words of my commandment

And hide them within yourself,

Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,

And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.

For if he calls upon wisdom,

And you utter your voice for understanding;

If you seek perception with a strong voice,

If you seek her as silver

And search for her as treasure,

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord

And find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

And from His face come knowledge and understanding;

And He stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;

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

Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,

And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

And the perception in your soul seems to be good,

Then good counsel will guard you,

And holy thinking will keep you;

That it might rescue you from an evil way

And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness

So they may walk in the ways of darkness,

Who delight in evils

And rejoice in evil perversion,

Whose ways are crooked

And their paths devious.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 10:12-20

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 2:21-26

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 12, 13, 14

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

Then Job answered and said:

“Moreover you are men.

Surely wisdom will die with you?

But I also have a heart as well as you.

“A righteous and blameless man

Has become an object of mockery.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

Under the power of others at the appointed time,

And his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

Let not, however, any one be persuaded

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

Let not those who provoke the Lord

Be persuaded there will be no trial for them.

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

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

Tell the earth if it may interpret it to you,

And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among all these does not know

The hand of the Lord created them,

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

And the breath of every man?

For indeed, the ear discerns words,

And the palate tastes wheat.

In length of time is wisdom,

And in long life, knowledge.

“With Him are wisdom and power;

With Him are counsel and understanding.

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

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

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

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

With Him are might and strength.

He has knowledge and understanding.

He leads counselors away captive

And makes fools of judges.

He sets kings upon thrones

And binds their waist with a belt.

He sends priests away into captivity

And overthrows the mighty of the earth.

He changes the lips of the faithful

And knows the understanding of elders.

He pours dishonor on rulers

And heals the humble.

He uncovers deep things out of darkness

And has brought into light the shadow of death.

He leads the nations astray and destroys them.

He overthrows the nations and leads them away.

He changes the hearts of rulers

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

May they grope in darkness,

And may they go astray like a drunken man.

“Behold, my eye has seen all these things,

And my ear has heard them.

What you know, I also know;

I am not of lesser understanding than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the Lord

And will reason before Him if He wills.

For you are all dishonest physicians and healers of diseases.

But would that you were silent,

For it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the conviction of my mouth

And heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord

And utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

But you yourselves be judges.

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

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

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

Will not His terror make you dizzy

And His fear fall upon you?

In the end, your insolence will go away like ashes

And your body like clay.

“Be silent, that I may speak

And put my anger to rest,

So I may take my flesh in my teeth

And put my life in my hand.

Though the Mighty One should lay His hand upon me,

And already He has begun,

I will speak and reason before Him.

This will turn for me into salvation,

For there shall be no deceit before Him.

Listen, listen to my words,

For I will report them in your hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:

I know I shall appear righteous.

Who is he who will judge me,

That I should now be silent and be wanting?

“Grant me two things,

Then I will not hide my face from You:

Withdraw Your hand far from me,

And let not the fear of You terrify me.

Then You will call, and I will obey You;

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

How many are my sins and transgressions?

Teach me what they are.

Why do You hide Yourself from me

And regard me as Your enemy?

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

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

For You wrote evil things against me

And compassed me with the sins of my youth.

You have put my foot in the stocks,

Have watched all my works,

And have penetrated into the roots of my feet,

Which have become old like a wineskin

Or like a moth-eaten garment.

“For mortal man born of woman

Is short-lived and full of wrath.

He falls like a flower that blooms,

And like a shadow, he does not continue.

Have You not taken account of him

And brought him to judgment before You?

For who shall be pure from uncleanness? No one.

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

His months are numbered by You.

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

Depart from him that he may rest,

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

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

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

For though its root may grow old in the earth

And its stump may die in the rocky ground,

Yet at the scent of water it will bud

And bring forth a crop like one newly planted.

But a man who dies is utterly gone,

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

For in time the sea is drawn down,

And a river stops flowing,

And the river bed dries up.

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

For the dead will not awake until heaven is dissolved.

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

That You had hidden me until Your wrath ceases,

And that You would appoint me a set time

In which You would remember me.

For will man live again

After he completes his course of life and dies?

I will wait until I arise.

Then You will call, and I will answer You,

But do not cast away the works of Your hands.

For You have numbered my practices,

And not one of my sins will escape You.

You sealed up my lawlessness in a bag

And marked if I transgressed unwillingly.

“Truly a mountain falls and crumbles in pieces;

And a rock wears out in its place.

Waters wear away stones,

And overflowing torrents wash away the soil of the earth;

And You destroy the duration of man.

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

You set your face against him and send him away.

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

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

But the muscles of his body feel pain,

And his soul grieves.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

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

My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel,

Nor forsake the teaching of your youth

And forget the divine covenant;

For it establishes its house with death,

And its paths beside Hades with the dead;

All who journey there do not return,

Nor do they lay hold of straight paths;

For they do not comprehend the years of life.

For if they walked in good paths,

They would find the smooth paths of righteousness.

The inhabitants of the land will be good,

And the simple will be left in it;

For the upright will dwell in the land,

And the holy will be left in it.

The ways of the ungodly shall perish from the land,

And the lawless shall be banished from it.

My son, do not forget my laws,

But let your heart keep my words;

For length of days, and years of life and peace

They will add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you,

But hang them upon your neck;

And you will find grace

And provide good things before the Lord and men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

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

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

Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

“Thus I prayed before the Lord; forty days and forty nights I kept praying, because the Lord said He would destroy you. Therefore, I prayed to God, and said, ‘O Lord, O Lord, O King of the gods, do not destroy Your people and Your portion You redeemed through Your great strength, whom You brought from the land of Egypt with Your great strength, Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself; do not look on the hardness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sins, lest those who inhabit the land You brought us from should say, “Because the Lord was unable to bring them to the land He promised them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the desert.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and outstretched arm.’

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on these tablets the words of the first tablets you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’ So I made an ark of wood not liable to decay, and hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, with the two tablets in my hands. Then He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets according to the first writing which the Lord spoke to you in the mountain, from the midst of the fire; and the Lord gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I made; and they were there, as the Lord commanded me.”

(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead. From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with rivers of water. At that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to minister to Him, and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, as He said to him.) “I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the Lord also heard me at that time, and the Lord chose not to destroy you. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go, and lead this people, so they may go in and inherit the land I swore to their fathers to give them.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 23:25-24:23 1 Samuel 23:26-24:22

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

Then Saul and his men went on one side of this mountain, and David and his men on the other side of this mountain. And David was hiding himself to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hasten and come here quickly, for the Philistines have invaded the land!” Therefore Saul turned back from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “David is in the desert of En Gedi.” Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaiem. On the way, he came across a flock of sheep, and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. And David’s men said to him, “Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective.” So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Then it happened that David’s heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. And David said to his men, “The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul.

So Saul got up from the cave and went his way. After Saul departed, David went out from the cave and cried out to Saul, saying, “My lord, O king!” And Saul looked back, and David, bowing to the ground, prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your life’? Take notice! This day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave; but I would not kill you. I spared you and said, ‘I will not put my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ Here in my hand is the corner of your robe! I cut off the corner, but did not kill you. See and know today, there is no evil or impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me from you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the ancient proverb says, ‘Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.’ Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand.”

And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Truly this is your voice, O son David.” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you repaid me with good, but I repaid you with evil. Today you make known how you dealt well with me, how when the Lord delivered me into your hand today, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy in distress and yet in a good way sends him out, the Lord will reward him with good, just as you did today. And now behold, I know that you shall be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hands. Therefore by the Lord, swear now to me that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.” So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 13:2-13

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

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. “I will command evils for all the inhabited world and the ungodly because of their sins, and I will destroy the insolence of the lawless and humble the haughtiness of the arrogant. Those left behind will be more valuable than fine gold tried in the fire, and a man more precious than the stone of Ophir. For heaven will be angry, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day His anger comes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 15:1-35

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Will a wise man give as an answer a breath of understanding,

And does he satisfy the pain in his belly,

Arguing with sayings which are not necessary

And with words wherein is no profit?

Have you not moreover cast off fear

And accomplished such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

Nor have you discerned the words of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and not I;

For your lips will testify against you.

“What? Are you the first man who was born?

Or were you made before the beaches?

Have you heard the doctrine of the Lord,

And has wisdom come only to you?

What do you know that we do not?

What do you understand that we do not also?

Both the aged and the very old are among us,

Much older than your father.

You have been punished for only a few of your sins;

You have spoken haughtily and exceedingly.

Why has your heart dared,

Or what are your eyes set on,

That you have vented your anger before the Lord

And brought forth such words from your mouth?

“For who is the mortal that shall be blameless,

Or who is born of a woman that shall be righteous,

Since He does not trust His saints

And heaven is not pure in His sight?

Alas then, detestable and unclean is a man

Who drinks wrongdoings like water!

“But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now seen,

What wise men say.

They did not hide anything received from their fathers.

To them alone the earth was given,

And no stranger came among them.

All the life of an ungodly man is spent in anxiety,

And the years granted an oppressor are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

And when he at last seems to be at peace,

His destruction comes.

Let him not believe he will return from darkness,

For he has already been given over to the power of the sword.

He has been appointed to be food for vultures,

And he knows in himself that he lives in a dead body;

And a dark day will carry him away like a whirlwind.

Trouble and anguish will come upon him,

And like a general he will fall in the first rank.

For he lifted his hands against the Lord

And acted defiantly against the Almighty Lord.

He ran in His sight with insolence,

With the thickness of his wide shield.

“For he covered his face with his fat

And put a collar upon his thighs.

May he lodge in deserted cities

And enter uninhabited houses;

And what they prepared, others will carry away.

Let him not grow rich, nor let his possessions remain;

Let him not cast a shadow upon the earth,

Neither let him escape the darkness.

Let the wind wither his blossom, and let his flower fall off.

Let him not believe he will endure,

For futility will be his reward.

His harvest will perish before its gathering,

And his branch will not flourish.

May he be gathered prematurely like unripe grapes,

And may he fall off like the blossom of an olive tree.

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

And fire will burn the houses of those who take bribes.

So he will conceive sorrows, his end will be vain,

And his belly shall bear deceit.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 2:1-3:4

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy. (\*)

Consider the ancient generations and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken?

Or who called upon Him and was overlooked?

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands,

And to a sinner who walks on two paths!

Woe to a fainting heart, because it does not believe!

Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

And those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

And those who love Him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts

And will humble their souls before Him.

We will fall into the hands of the Lord

And not into the hands of men;

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Give heed to me, O children, for I am your father,

And do what I tell you, that you may be saved.

For the Lord honored the father over the children

And strengthened the judgment of the mother over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for his sins;

And he who honors his mother

Is like one who stores up treasure.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

(\*) Some books end the reading here.

## The Third Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 27:1-41a

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

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. Then make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son; and Esau went to the field to hunt game for his father. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, “Indeed, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.’ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the sheep and bring me from there two kids, choice and good, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it and bless you before his death.”

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.” But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.” So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. She also put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the exposed part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob.

Thus he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it you have found it so quickly, my son?” He said, “Because the Lord your God brought it to me.” Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are my son Esau or not.” So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s.” Thus he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, “Are you my son Esau?” He said, “I am.”

He said, “Bring your game to me, my son, and I will eat from it, that my soul may bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing.

Thus he blessed him and said:

“Surely, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field the Lord has blessed.

Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven

And of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brethren,

And let your mother’s sons bow down to you.

And cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

Now it happened, as soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob his son, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed, he shall be blessed.” When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!” But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.” Then Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing.” So he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?” Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth,

And of the dew of heaven from above.

By your sword you shall live,

And you shall serve your brother;

And it shall come to pass, when you become restless,

That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Thus Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 14:24-32

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

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I said, so it shall come to pass. As I purposed, so it shall remain—to destroy the Assyrians in My land and on My mountains. They shall be for trampling underfoot, and their yoke shall be taken away; and their renown shall be removed from their shoulders.” This is the purpose the Lord purposed upon all the inhabited world. His hand is lifted up over all the nations of the inhabited earth. For who will reject what the holy God purposed? Who will turn away His uplifted hand?

In the year King Ahaz died, this word came: “Do not be glad, all you foreigners, for the yoke of him who struck you is broken to pieces. For from the seed of serpents shall come forth the young asps, and their offspring shall be flying serpents. The poor will be fed by him, and poor men will rest in peace, but he shall destroy your seed with hunger, and he will destroy your remnant. Wail, gates of the cities, cry out, troubled cities, even all the foreigners, for smoke is coming from the north, and you will be no more!” What will the kings of the nations answer? For the Lord founded Zion, and the humble of His people shall be saved.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 16, 17

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

Then Job answered and said:

“I have heard many such things;

You are all bad comforters.

What order is there in words of wind?

Or what troubles you, that you answer thus?

I also could speak as you do,

If indeed your soul were in my soul’s place.

Then I would attack you with words

And shake my head at you.

But would there were strength in my mouth:

Then I would not spare the movement of my lips.

“If I should speak, I would feel the pain of my wound,

But if I also should be silent, how would I be less wounded?

But now He has made me weary and a worn-out fool,

And you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testimony.

It rises up and argues against me to my face.

He vented His wrath and struck me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

The arrows of the raiders fell on me.

He attacked me with the sharp darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek;

With one accord they ran me down.

For the Lord delivered me into the hands of an unjust man

And cast me upon the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He rejected me.

He took me by the hair of my head and pulled it out.

He set me up as a mark.

They surrounded me with spears aimed at my mind.

Without sparing me, they poured out my gall on the ground.

Running at me with all their strength,

They knocked me down, head over heels.

I sewed sackcloth on my skin,

And my strength is spent on the ground.

My belly is on fire because of weeping,

And shade is on my eyelids.

Yet there was no wrongdoing in my hands,

And my prayer is pure.

O earth, do not cover the blood of my flesh,

Nor may my cry have a place.

Now behold, my witness is in the heavens,

And the One who knows me thoroughly is on high.

May my supplication come before the Lord,

And may my eyes pour out tears in His presence.

May there be rebuttal for a man before the Lord,

As a son of man with his neighbor.

For my years are numbered,

And I shall go the way of no return.

“I am perishing, carried away by the wind;

And I ask for a burial-place, but cannot obtain it.

I am tired of entreating, yet what have I done?

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is he? Let him join hands with me.

For You hid their heart from discernment;

Therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will declare evils as their portion,

But my eyes melt away because of my children.

“But You made me a byword among the people,

And I have become an object of laughter to them.

For my eyes are petrified because of Your wrath,

And I am greatly besieged by everyone.

Amazement seizes true men because of this,

And the righteous man rises against the lawless man.

May the faithful man hold to his way,

And may those who have clean hands take courage.

“Nevertheless, all of you stick together,

And indeed come, for I did not find you to be true.

My days have passed in groaning

And my heartstrings are broken.

Light turned night into day.

It is near at the appearance of darkness.

If I tarry, Hades is my home,

And my bed is spread in darkness.

I called upon death to be my father

And decay to be my mother and my sister.

Where then is my hope,

Or where shall I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

Or shall we go down together in the tomb?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 28:10-22

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

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God’s house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 25:1-26:9a

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

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation.” For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

1In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: “Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 18:1-21

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“How long will you keep talking?

Pay close attention so we may also speak.

Why have we been silent before you

Like four-footed animals?

Wrath possesses you. Suppose you die;

Would the earth under heaven be uninhabited,

Or the mountains be overturned from their foundations?

“The light of the ungodly will go out,

And their flame will not go up.

His light shall be dark in his dwelling,

And his lamp beside him shall be put out.

May the least of men pounce on his goods,

And let his counsel stumble him.

For his foot has been caught in a snare,

And he is entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him.

He shall strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

A snare is hidden in the ground for him,

And a capture awaits him on the beaten paths.

May sorrows destroy him on every side;

And may many enemies come about him

And plague him with severe hunger,

For a destruction out of the ordinary is prepared for him.

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

For death will consume his beauty.

May health be banished from his dwelling,

And may distress seize him because of a royal decree.

It shall dwell in his tent at night,

And his goodly appearance shall be sown with brimstone.

His roots shall be dried out from below,

And his crop shall be trampled from above.

His memory shall perish from the earth,

And his name shall be remembered no more.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He shall not be known among his people,

Nor his house preserved on the earth;

But others shall live among his possessions.

The last groaned for him, and wonder seized the first.

These are the dwellings of wrongdoers,

And this is the place of those who do not know the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 8:1-10:1

From the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not contend sharply with a powerful man,

Lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

Lest he resist your force,

For gold has destroyed many

And perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend sharply with a talkative man,

And do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with an uncultivated man,

Lest your forefathers be insulted.

Do not insult a man who turns away from sin;

Remember that we are all valuable.

Do not dishonor a man in his old age,

For some of us are growing old as well.

Do not rejoice over any dead person;

Remember that we all must die.

Do not disregard a saying of the wise,

But be conversant with their proverbs;

Because from them you will gain instruction

And how to serve noble people.

Do not miss a saying of the old,

For they themselves learned from their fathers;

Because from them you will gain understanding

And be able to give an answer in time of need.

Do not kindle the coals of a sinner,

For you may be burned by his flame.

Do not let the presence of an insolent man

Arouse you from your seat,

Lest he lie in wait as an ambush against your words.

Do not lend to a man stronger than you;

But if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety beyond your ability to pay;

But if you do give surety, be as careful as one who has to pay.

Do not go to law against a judge,

For they will decide for him because of his reputation.

Do not travel on a journey with a reckless man,

Lest he weigh you down;

For he will do his will,

And you will perish with him in his folly.

Do not cause a fight with an angry man,

And do not go into a lonely place with him,

Because murder is as nothing in his eyes,

And where there is no help, he will strike you down.

Do not consult with a fool,

For he will not keep a matter confidential.

Do nothing confidential in the presence of a stranger,

For you do not know what he will give birth to.

Do not open your heart to everyone,

Lest unkindness be shown to you.

Do not be jealous of the wife of your bosom

And so teach her an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

To let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a woman who is a courtesan,

Lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

Lest you be caught in her schemes.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

Lest you stumble and pay damages for her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look around in the streets of a city,

And do not wander about in its deserted sections.

Turn your eye away from a woman with a shapely figure,

And do not gaze at beauty belonging to another.

Many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman,

And erotic love is like a burning fire.

Never dine with another man’s wife,

And do not share in parties with her over wine,

Lest your soul turn aside to her,

And you slip and with your spirit fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

For a new one is not equal with him.

A new friend is like new wine;

Drink it with pleasure only after it ages.

Do not envy the honor given a sinner,

For you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly;

Remember, they will not be declared righteous even in Hades.

Keep far away from a man who has the power to kill,

And you will not be anxious about the fear of death.

But if you come near him, do not offend him,

Lest he take away your life.

Know that you are stepping in the midst of snares

And walking about the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbors as best you can

And consult with those who are wise.

Let your reasoning be with those who are wise,

And let all your talk be about the law of the Most High.

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

And let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord.

A work will be praised for the skill of its craftsmen,

And a wise leader of people for the skill of his words.

A talkative man is regarded with fear in his city,

And a man who is reckless in his speech will be hated.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 7:14-8:15

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

So the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. Then you shall say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert”; but indeed, until now you would not hear. Thus says the Lord: “By this you shall know I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river.” ’ ” Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.’ ”

So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said. Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. The frogs shall come up on you, your people, and all your servants.” ’ ”

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers did the same with their sorceries and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, and let Him take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord.” Moses replied to Pharaoh, “Appoint me a time when I shall pray for you, for your servants, and for your people to make the frogs disappear from you, your people, and your houses. Only in the river will they remain.” So Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow.” Moses then said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know this is none other than the Lord. Now the frogs shall depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. Then they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.’ ” Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 3:1-5

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

“After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. And I shall give wonders in the heavens and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 1:1-22

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

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, “Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God.” Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, “Where did you come from?” So the devil answered the Lord and said, “I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven.” Then the Lord said to him, “Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?” So the devil answered and said before the Lord, “Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face.” Then the Lord said to the devil, “Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him.” Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job’s sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, “The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then raiders came and took them captive and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, “Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother, and suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped, saying, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

In all these things that happened, Job did not sin against the Lord or charge God with folly.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 26:21-27:9

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

For behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the inhabitants of the earth, and the earth will uncover its blood and will not cover its slain.

In that day, God will bring His holy, great, and strong sword upon the fleeing dragon serpent, the perverse dragon serpent that flees; and He shall destroy the dragon. In that day, there shall be a beautiful vineyard, and a desire to begin a hymn against a city: “I am a strong city, a besieged city; I water it in vain; for it shall be taken at night, and its wall shall fall by day. There is no woman who has not taken hold of it. Who will appoint me to guard straw in a field? I rejected it because of this enemy. For that very reason therefore, the Lord God did all the things He ordered. I am burned down.” Those who dwell in it will cry out, “Let us make peace with Him, let us make peace.” Those who come are the children of Jacob. Israel shall bud and put forth flowers, and the inhabited earth shall be filled with its fruit. As he struck, shall he not be thus struck? As he slew, shall he not be thus slain? Fighting and denouncing he shall send them away. Did you not think with a harsh spirit about killing them in a spirit of anger? Therefore the lawlessness of Jacob will be removed; and this is his blessing when I take away his sin, when they make all the stones of the altars beaten like fine dust. Their trees do not remain, and their idols shall be cut down like a distant forest.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 32:2-30

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

So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is God’s encampment”; and he called the name of that place Encampments.

Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says, “I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight.” ’ ” Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him.” So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. Thus Jacob said, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape.”

Again Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,’ let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’ ”

So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, “Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves.” And he commanded the first one, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?’ Then you shall say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’ ” So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’ ” For he said to himself, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men.”

Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And he said, “Why do you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God: “For I saw God face to face, and my soul was saved.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 28:14-22

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

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, “We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected”; therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 20:1-29

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

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“I did not suppose you would answer in that way;

Nor do you understand more than I.

I will heed the discipline of my humiliation,

And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

“Have you not heard these things of old—

From the time man was put on the earth?

For the gladness of the ungodly is a disastrous fall,

And the joy of transgressors is destruction.

Though his gifts ascend to heaven

And his sacrifice touches the clouds,

Just when he already seems to be established,

Then he shall utterly perish;

And those who knew him will say, ‘Where is he?’

Like a dream he flew away and cannot be found;

And he fled like a vision of the night.

The eye observed him, but will see him no more;

Nor will his place any longer behold him.

May his children perish,

And may his vile hands kindle the fire of sorrows.

His bones were full of his youthful vigor,

Which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth,

And he will hide it under his tongue,

Though he will not spare it and will not forsake it,

But will hold it fast in the midst of his throat,

Yet he shall be unable to help himself,

For the gall of an asp is in his belly.

His wealth gathered unjustly shall be vomited up,

And a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he nurse on the anger of serpents;

And may a snake’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

Nor his supplies of honey and butter.

In vain he has labored unprofitably for wealth,

Of which he will not taste;

For it is like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he crushed the houses of many weak people.

He plundered their dwelling and caused it to cease.

“There is no salvation in his possessions,

For he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his good things will not flourish.

But when he at last seems to be satisfied, he will be distressed,

For every trouble will come upon him.

If he were to satisfy his stomach in some way,

Let God send the fury of wrath upon him,

And may He bathe him in sorrows.

He will not be saved from the power of the sword;

May a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pass through his body,

And may lightning strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that will not go out will consume him.

May a stranger ruin his house.

May heaven uncover his lawlessness,

And may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

And may a day of wrath come upon him.

This is the portion of an ungodly man from the Lord,

And the heritage appointed to him from the One who watches him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 6:2-28

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

It pleased Darius to set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so they might be throughout his entire kingdom. He also set three administrators above these, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, that the king might not be troubled. But Daniel excelled beyond them, because there was an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. The administrators and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel, but they could find no charge or wrongdoing or fault against him because he was faithful. Then the administrators said, “We will find nothing against Daniel unless we find it in the laws of his God.”

So the administrators and the governors stood before the king and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now therefore, O king, establish the decree and exhibit the writing publicly, so the decree of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed.” Then King Darius gave orders to write the decree.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree was posted, he entered his house, where the windows facing Jerusalem were open to him in the upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks to his God, as he was doing before. Then those men watched Daniel closely and found him praying and making supplication before his God. So they approached the king and said, “O king, did you not give orders that any man who petitioned anything from any god or man, except from you, he would be cast into the den of lions?” The king replied, saying, “The word is true, and the decree of the Medes and Persians shall not pass away.”

Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is from the captives of Judea, does not obey your order concerning the decree you commanded, for he prays and petitions his God three times a day.” Then when the king heard this word, he was very sad in himself, and he struggled hard to deliver Daniel, and did his best to deliver him until evening. Then those men said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute the king establishes can be altered.”

After that, the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” Then they brought a stone and placed it over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his ring and with the ring of his nobles, so the matter concerning Daniel might not be changed. The king then went to his house and spent the night without his evening meal; for they brought no meats to him, and his sleep departed from him. Now God shut the mouths of the lions, and they did not trouble Daniel.

Then the king arose early in the morning at daybreak and went in haste to the den of lions. As he approached the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they did not destroy me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and I did no wrongdoing in His sight.”

Then the king rejoiced greatly over him and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den; and no corruption was found in him, because he believed in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought the men who brought charges against Daniel; and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. They did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Now Darius the king wrote to all peoples, tribes, and languages who dwell in all the earth:

“May peace be multiplied to you.

“A decree was made in my presence, that in every dominion of my kingdom, men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, because He is the living God; He endures unto the ages. His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall continue to the end. He helps and rescues, and works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

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

“So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His ordinances I command you today for your good? Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy-five souls, and now, the Lord your God made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

“Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, and always keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His judgments. Know today, I do not speak with your children, who have not known and seen the chastening of the Lord your God, nor His greatness and mighty hand and outstretched arm— the signs and wonders He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horse and chariots; how He made the water of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord destroyed them to this day; what He did for you in the desert until you came to this place; and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up in the midst of Israel, along with their households, tents, and all the substance in their possession—but your eyes saw all the great works the Lord did for you today.

“Therefore, you shall keep all His commandments I command you today, that you may live and increase and go in and inherit the land you are crossing the Jordan to inherit, and may prolong your days in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, to them and their seed after them, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ For the land you go to inherit is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land you are crossing over to inherit is a land of hills and plains, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land the Lord your God looks upon; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

“So if you earnestly obey all His commandments I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then He will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, wine, and olive oil. I will also send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be filled. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord’s anger be aroused against you and He shut up heaven, so there may be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land the Lord gave you.

“Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be immovable before your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates, that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, like days of heaven on earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments I command you today—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—then the Lord will cast out all these nations from before your face, and you will inherit greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the desert and Antilebanon, and from the great Euphrates River, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against your face; the Lord your God will put the dread and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, in the manner the Lord said to you.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but go astray from the way I command you today, to go after different gods you have not known.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 29:13-23

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

So the Lord said, “These people draw near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and hide the understanding of the intelligent.” Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us or what we do?” Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is molded of clay say to him who molded it, “You did not create me”? Or shall the work say to him who made it, “You did not make me wisely”? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, as well as those who cause men to sin in word. They shall make all who condemn at the gates an offense, because they turned aside the righteous man with wrongdoing. Therefore the Lord says this concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart out of Abraham: “Now Jacob shall not be ashamed, nor shall Israel now change his countenance. But when their children see My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 21:1-34

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

Then Job answered and said:

“Listen carefully to my words,

That I may not have this consolation from you.

Bear with me and I will speak;

Then you will stop laughing at me.

“What? Is there any one who does not blame me?

Or why should I not be furious?

Look at me and be astonished,

And put your hand over your mouth.

For even when I remember, I am alarmed,

And pains take hold of my flesh.

Why do the ungodly live and become old, even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to their desire,

And their children are before their eyes.

Their houses flourish, and they have no cause for fear;

Neither is there any affliction from the Lord upon them.

Their ox does not miscarry,

For it is preserved safe during pregnancy

And does not suffer a mishap.

They remain as an unfailing herd,

And their children dance,

Taking up the psaltery and harp;

And they celebrate at the sound of song.

They spend their life in their good things

And fall asleep in the rest of the grave.

Yet such a man says to the Lord,

‘Depart from me. I do not wish to know Your ways.

What is a sufficient reason for us to serve Him?

What benefit is it for us to meet Him?’

For their good things are in their power,

For He does not take notice of the works of the ungodly.

“Nevertheless, the lamp of the ungodly will be put out.

Destruction shall come upon them,

And the sorrows of wrath will seize them.

They are like chaff before the wind,

And they are like dust a storm carries away.

May his possessions fail to supply his children.

God will recompense him, and he will not know it.

May his eyes see his own slaughter,

And may he not be saved by the Lord.

For is his will not in his house with himself?

But the number of his months has been apportioned.

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

Does not He judge murders?

One shall die in the strength of his simplicity,

And wholly at ease and prosperous.

His innards are full of stiff fat,

And the marrow of his bones is dissipated.

Another dies under bitterness of soul,

Not eating any good thing.

They lie down together in the earth,

And decay covers them.

Thus I know you press me recklessly.

You will say, ‘where is the house of the ruler?

Where is the shelter of the dwelling place of the ungodly?’

Ask those who travel the road,

And do not overlook their signs.

For the evil man makes light of the day of destruction,

But they shall be led away in the day of His wrath.

Who will tell him his way to his face?

Who will recompense him for what he has done?

Yet he is brought to the grave,

And a vigil is kept over the coffin.

The pebbles of the valley have been sweet to him.

Every man shall depart after him,

As countless have departed before him.

How then can you comfort me with empty words,

Since I have no rest from you?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Daniel 14:2-42 (Bel and the Serpent 2-42)

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

Daniel was a confidant of the king and was honored above all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol whose name was Bel, and every day they spent on it twelve bushels of fine flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of wine. The king adored it and went every day to worship it; but Daniel worshiped his own God. So the king asked him, “Why do you not worship Bel?” Daniel answered, “Because I do not worship idols made with hands, but only the living God who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all flesh.” The king said to him, “Do you not think Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?” Daniel smiled and said, “Do not be deceived, O king, for it is but clay inside and bronze outside, and it has never eaten or drunk anything.”

Very angry, the king summoned his priests and said to them, “If you do not tell me who it is that consumes these provisions, you shall die. But if you can prove Bel consumes them, then Daniel shall die, because he blasphemed against Bel.” So Daniel said to the king, “Let it be according to your word.”

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple. Then the priests of Bel said, “Look, we will step outside. You, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, then shut the door and seal it with your signet. If you do not find Bel has eaten it all when you come tomorrow, we will suffer death—or else Daniel shall die, who speaks lies against us.” They were unconcerned, for under the table they had made a secret entrance through which they always came in to consume the provisions.

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food for Bel. And Daniel ordered his servants to bring in ashes, which they sprinkled throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door, sealed it with the king’s signet, and departed. During the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king rose early the next morning, and Daniel with him. Then the king said, “Are the seals intact, Daniel?” Daniel answered, “They are intact, O king.” As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table and cried out in a loud voice, “Great are you, O Bel, and with you there is no deceit at all.” Then Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. He said, “Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are.” The king replied, “I see the footprints of men, women, and children.” With great anger, the king seized the priests and their wives and children, and they showed him the hidden doors where they came in and consumed such things as were upon the table. Therefore the king put them to death and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

There was also a large serpent the people of Babylon worshiped. So the king said to Daniel, “Will you also say this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, he eats, and he drinks—you cannot say he is no living god. Therefore worship him.” Daniel replied, “I will worship the Lord my God; for He is the living God. But with your permission, O king, I shall slay this serpent without sword or staff.” The king said, “I will give my permission.” Then Daniel took pitch, tar, and hair; these he boiled together and made cakes, and put them in the mouth of the serpent. The serpent ate them and burst open. Then Daniel said, “Behold the things you have been worshiping.”

Now when the people of Babylon heard what had been done, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, “The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death.” Going to the king, they said, “Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house.” Now when the king saw they were pressing him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They threw Daniel into the lions’ den, where he was left for six days. Now there were seven lions in the den, and they had to give them two carcasses every day and two sheep. But these things were not given to them now, so they might devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the fields to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said unto Habakkuk, “Go, carry the dinner you have into Babylon to Daniel, who is in the lions’ den.” Habakkuk said, “O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, nor do I know the den.” Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. Habakkuk cried out, saying, “O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal God has sent you.” Daniel said, “You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You.” So Daniel arose and ate; and the angel of the Lord immediately set Habakkuk down in his own place once more.

After this, on the seventh day the king went to the lions’ den to mourn for Daniel, and he came to the pit and looked inside—and there sat Daniel. The king cried out with a loud voice, “Great are You, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides You.” Then he drew him out of the den, and cast in those who had plotted Daniel’s destruction; and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 3:5-20a

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

Trust in God with all your heart,

And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,

That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

And nothing evil will withstand her;

She is well known to all who come near her,

And no honor is worthy of her.

For length of days and years of life are in her right hand,

And in her left hand are riches and glory;

Righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

And she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

And all her paths are in peace.

She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 37:33-38:6

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

Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way he came, by the same shall he return,’ says the Lord. ‘I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ ”

Then the Angel of the Lord went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, they discovered all the dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, then escaped into the land of Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ ” Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and did what is pleasing in Your sight.” So Hezekiah wept loudly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I heard your prayer, I see your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will protect this city.” ’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 22:1-30

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

For what concern is it to the Lord

If you were blameless in your works?

Or what profit is it to Him to make plain your ways?

Will He argue with you while you plead your case?

Will He enter into judgment with you?

Is not your vice plentiful,

And are not your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges from your brethren for no reason

And taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

But have even withheld a morsel from the hungry.

You have also admired the personality of some

And have transplanted those already settled on earth.

You have sent widows away empty

And have mistreated orphans.

Therefore snares are all around you,

And a serious war has troubled you.

The light has turned to darkness for you,

And water has covered you as you fell asleep.

“Does not He who dwells on high take notice of all?

Does He not humble those who move about with insolence?

But you say, ‘What does the Mighty One know?

Will He judge down into the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding place, so He cannot see

As He travels through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep to the old path

Which wrongdoers have trod,

Who were seized before their time

And whose foundations were swept away by a flood;

Who said, ‘What will the Lord do to us?’

Or, ‘What will the Almighty bring upon us?’

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

But the counsel of the ungodly is far from Him.

“The righteous have seen it and laughed,

And the innocent mocked them.

Surely their substance has perished,

And fire will consume what is left.

Eliphaz Exhorts Job to Be Strong

“Be strong, therefore. If you endure,

Then your fruit shall be in good things.

Receive utterance from His mouth

And lay up His words in your heart.

If you return and humble yourself before the Lord,

You have caused wrongdoing to be far from your dwelling.

Then you will lay up treasure for yourself

Like a mound on a rock,

And you shall be like the gold of Ophir

On a rock in the brooks.

So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

And He will restore you as pure as silver purged by fire.

For then you will speak freely before the Lord,

Looking up cheerfully to heaven.

When you pray to Him, He will hear you,

And He will allow you to pay your vows.

He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,

And there shall be light on your paths.

You will say, ‘He behaved arrogantly, but he humbled himself,

And He will save him who bows down with his eyes.’

He will deliver the innocent,

And you will save yourself in the purity of your hands.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Numbers 10:34-11:35

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

Now it came to pass that when they broke camp with the ark, Moses said, “Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let all who hate You flee.”And when the ark rested, he said, “Return, O Lord, to the many thousands in Israel!” The cloud also overshadowed them by day when they broke camp.

Now the people were grumbling evilly before the Lord, and the Lord heard them and was provoked to anger. So the fire of the Lord burned among them and utterly destroyed part of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord; and the fire was quenched. So he called the name of the place Burning, because fire from the Lord burned among them.

Now the mixed multitude among them hungered exceedingly; and sitting down, the children of Israel were also weeping, and said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes except this manna.” Now the manna is like coriander seed, and its form is like the form of ice pellets. The people would go about and gather it, and grind it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, then cook it in pots, and make cakes of it; and its flavor was like the taste of a pastry prepared with oil and honey. And when the dew descended on the camp in the night, the manna descended upon it.

Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their tribes, everyone at his door; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You maltreated Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the wrath of this people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ I am not able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, kill me here and now—if I find mercy in Your sight—and do not let me see my maltreatment.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone. Then you shall say to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept before the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month you shall eat, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

Then Moses said, “The people I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You are saying, ‘I will give them meat, so they may eat for a whole month.’ Shall sheep and oxen be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Is the Lord’s hand unable to provide for them? Now you shall know whether or not My word will overtake you.” So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord descended in the cloud and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Lord Moses, forbid them.” Then Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.” So Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Now a wind went out from the Lord and brought birds from the sea that migrate together with quail, and cast them upon the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and about a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Then the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the birds (he who gathered least gathered ten cors); and they spread the meat out to dry for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the Lord’s anger was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place Graves of Lust, because there they buried the people who lusted. Then the people broke camp to go to Hazeroth, and they camped at Hazeroth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 3:21-4:8

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

God by wisdom founded the earth

And prepared the heavens with discernment.

With perception the depths were broken up,

And the clouds flowed with dew.

My son, do not be careless,

But keep my counsel and thinking,

That your soul may live,

And grace may be around your neck.

And there will be healing for your flesh

And care for your bones,

That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways,

And your foot may not stumble.

For if you sit down, you will be without fear,

And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.

And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you,

Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you;

For the Lord will be over all your ways,

And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken.

Do not withhold doing good to the needy,

When you may give a helping hand;

Do not say, when you are able to do good,

“Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something”;

For you do not know what the next day will bring forth.

Do not devise evil things against your friend

Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.

Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain,

Lest he do you some harm.

Do not incur the reproach of evil men,

Neither seek their ways;

For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord,

And he does not sit among the righteous.

The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly,

But He blesses the dwellings of the righteous.

The Lord opposes the arrogant,

But He gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But the ungodly exalt dishonor.

1Hear, my children, the instruction of your father,

And pay attention, that you might know his thinking;

For I offer a good gift to you;

Do not forsake my law.

For I was a son, and I was obedient to my father,

And beloved in the presence of my mother,

Who taught me, saying,

“Let our word become firmly planted in your heart;

Guard our commandments; do not forget them;

Neither disregard the word of my mouth,

Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you;

Love it, and it will keep you.

Secure it, and it shall exalt you;

Honor it, that it may embrace you,

And give your head a crown of graces,

And cover you with a crown of delight.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 40:1-8

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

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all man’s glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 25:1-26:14

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“What beginning or fear is His—

He who makes all things in the highest heaven?

For may no one imagine there is a respite for pirates.

Upon whom will there not be an ambush from Him?

How shall a mortal be righteous before the Lord?

Or how may he who is born of a woman purify himself?

If He orders the moon, then it does not shine,

And the stars are not pure in His sight.

But alas! Man is putrid, and the son of man a worm.”

But Job answered and said:

“To whom are you attached,

Or whom are you going to help?

Is it not He who has great strength

And whose arm is powerful?

To whom have you given counsel?

Is it not to Him who has all wisdom?

Or whom will you follow?

Is it not One who has the greatest power?

To whom have you spoken words?

Whose breath came forth from you?

“Will giants be born under the water

And those inhabiting them?

Hades is naked before Him,

And destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind upon nothing;

He hangs the earth on nothing.

He binds up the water in His clouds,

Yet the cloud is not broken under it.

He grasps the face of His throne

And spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the water by an ordinance

Until the end of light and darkness.

The pillars of heaven were spread all over

And stood amazed at His rebuke.

He checked the sea with His power,

And by His understanding He wounded the sea-monster.

For the bars of heaven fear Him,

Because He put to death the rebellious dragon by a command.

Behold, these are parts of His way,

And we will hearken to the least of His words.

But who knows when He will bring about the strength of His thunder?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 8:16-9:35

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

Again the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me in the desert. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send the dog-fly on you and your servants, and on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with the dog-fly, and also the ground on which they stand. Now on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no dog-fly be there, that you may know I am the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this shall be a sign in the land.” ’ ” So the Lord did thus; and the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt, and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. We will go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us.” Pharaoh then said, “I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord.” Then Moses said, “Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord.”

So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Thus the Lord did as Moses said and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people. Not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go so they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the fields—on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep—a very severe pestilence. Then I will make a clear distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ”

Then God appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the cattle of the Egyptians died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel, not one died. Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one among the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh; and let it become dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” So they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven; and they caused boils to break out in sores on man and beast. Now the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers and in all the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said to Moses.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, so they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues into your very heart, and on your servants and your people, that you may know there is not another such as I in all the earth. For now I will stretch forth My hand and smite you and kill your people, and you will be cut off from the earth. But for this very reason were you preserved, that I might display in you My strength, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. As yet, you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time, I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore, hurry now and gather your cattle and all you have in the fields, for the hail shall come down on every man and animal found in the fields; and whatever is not brought home shall die.” ’ ” Thus he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his cattle into the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and cattle in the field.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are ungodly. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer.” So Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord’s. But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord.” Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. Thus when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord said to Moses.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 41:4-14

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

Who worked and performed these things? He called righteousness, He who calls it from generations of old. I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One will say, ‘The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer and forges at the same time.’ Sometimes one will say, ‘It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved.’

“But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of Abraham, whom I loved. I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you, ‘You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand.’ Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as though they did not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. You shall seek but not find the men who rage against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they did not exist. For I am your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not.’ O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel,” says God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Joel 4:9-21

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

Proclaim these things among the nations: “Prepare for war; arouse the warriors; draw near and go up, all you men of war. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ Assemble together and join in, all you nations round about. And in that place, gather yourselves together; let the gentle be warlike. Let all the nations rouse themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit to judge all the nations round about.

“Bring out the sickles, for the harvest is ripe. Come in and tread the grapes, for the winepress is full, the wine vats overflow; for their wickedness is multiplied. The news resounded in the valley of judgment, for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of judgment. The sun and moon shall become dark, and the stars shall withdraw their light. And the Lord shall cry out from Zion, and He shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and earth will quake, but the Lord shall keep His people safe and shall strengthen the sons of Israel. So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, the one dwelling in Zion on My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be a holy city, and no more will strangers pass through her.

“And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip sweetness, and milk shall flow from the hills, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with water. And a fountain shall flow out from the house of the Lord, and it will supply water to the Valley of Acacias. Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a wilderness because of the wrongdoings against the people of Judah, because of the innocent blood shed in their land. But Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem unto generations of generations. And I shall avenge their blood and shall not let it go unpunished. The Lord shall dwell in Zion.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 28:12-28

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

“But where can wisdom be found?

What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

The deep said, ‘It is not in me’;

And the sea said, ‘It is not with me.’

One shall not give massive piles of gold instead of it,

Nor can silver be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with the gold of Ophir,

With the precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal will equal it,

Nor can it be exchanged for vessels of gold.

No mention shall be made of coral and quartz,

But you must hold up wisdom above the most valued things.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,

Nor can it be compared with pure gold.

“From where then is wisdom found,

And what is the place of understanding?

It has been hidden from every man

And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Destruction and Death said,

‘We have heard about its fame.’

God has well established its way,

And He knows its place.

For He watches over the whole earth under heaven,

Knowing the things in the earth, all He has made—

The weight of the winds and the measures of the water.

When He made them, He numbered them

And made a way for the claps of thunder.

Then He saw wisdom and declared it;

He prepared it and traced it out.

He said to man, ‘behold, the fear of God is wisdom,

And to abstain from evils is understanding.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:9-18

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

Hear me, my son, and receive my words,

And the years of your life shall be increased,

That many ways of life may be yours;

For I teach you the ways of wisdom

And set you on upright paths.

For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined;

And if you run, you will not grow weary.

Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go,

But guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

But turn aside from them and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;

Their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest;

For they feed on the bread of ungodliness,

And they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

They go before and give light until full daylight.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

They do not know how they stumble.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 1:1-2:21 or 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21\*

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

There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. He had two wives. The name of onewas Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. To Hannah, he gave one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah.” And she said to him, “Here I am, lord.” Then he said to her, “What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?” So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, “O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

And as she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. And as she spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. The servant of God said to her, “For how long will you remain drunk? Cast off your wine, and go out from the face of the Lord!” But Hannah answered and said, “No lord, I am a woman for whom this day is difficult. I drank neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. Do not consider your handmaiden a daughter of pestilence just because of the multitude of my idle words I have put forth.” Then Eli answered and said to her, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you the petition you asked of Him.” And she said, “Your handmaiden has found favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped the Lord and went on their way back to Elkanah’s house at Ramathaim. And he knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. She conceived, and it came to be at the appointed time she bore a son, and she called him Samuel and said, “Because I asked for him from the Lord God Sabaoth.”

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vow, and the tenth portion of all his land. But Hannah did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, “I will not go up until our boy is weaned from me. Then he will appear in the presence of the Lord and stay there continually.” And Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord confirm as true what was coming out of your mouth.” So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she weaned him.

And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf three years old, loaves of bread, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She came to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was with them. And they came before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering he made yearly to the Lord. He brought the child and slaughtered the calf. Then Hannah, the mother of the young boy, went to Eli. And she said to him, “Lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who was standing near you while I prayed to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord gave me my request which I asked from Him. And I lend him to the Lord all the days which he lives to be fruitful to the Lord.”

And she said:

“My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.”

They left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim, and the child performed the services before the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of scoundrels, not knowing the Lord. And the custom of the priest for the people who sacrificed was for the servant of the priest to come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. He would then thrust it into either the large kettle, or the brazen vessel, or the pot; and everything the meat-hook brought up, the priest would take for himself. So in Shiloh, they did this to all the Israelites who came there to sacrifice to the Lord. Also, before they burned the fat, the servant came and said to the man who sacrificed, “Give some meat to be roasted to the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat from out of the cauldron.”

And if the man sacrificing said to him, “First he should burn the fat as fitting, then you may take as much as your soul desires.” But he would say, “No, you shall give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force.” Therefore the sin of the servants is exceedingly great before the Lord, for they nullified the sacrifice of the Lord.

As a young boy, Samuel was serving before the Lord wearing a linen ephod of a servant. Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him once a year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan you made to the Lord.” Then the man went to his place. And the Lord watched over Hannah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew and matured before the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Isaias 42:5-16

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

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the tops of the mountains. They will give glory to God and declare His virtues in the coastlands. The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal, and cry out against His enemies with strength. I held My peace, and I will not always be silent and restrain Myself. Now I will be steadfast, like a woman in labor. I shall amaze and dry up together. I will make the rivers into coastlands and dry up marsh-meadows. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know, and will cause them to tread paths they have not known. I will turn darkness into light for them, and make crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 4:19-28

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

My son, give heed to my word

And incline your ear to my words,

That your fountains may not fail you;

Guard them in your heart;

For they are life to those who find them

And healing for all their flesh.

Keep your heart with all watchfulness,

For from these words are the issues of life.

Put away from yourself a crooked mouth

And remove unrighteous lips far from you.

Let your eyes look straight forward,

And let your eyelids assent to righteous things.

Make straight paths for your feet

And direct your ways aright.

Do not turn aside to the right or to the left,

But turn your foot from an evil way;

\*[For God knows the ways on the right hand,

But those on the left are perverse;

And He shall make your paths straight

And guide your steps in peace.]\*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] lacking in Oattawa and Southern United States. Found in Kitchener.

##### Job 29:2-20

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

“Who may put me in months past,

As in the days when God protected me—

As when His lamp shone upon my head,

And by His light I walked in the darkness;

As when I steadfastly pursued my ways,

When God’s visitation was over my house;

As when I lived in abundance,

And my children were around me;

As when my roads spread out with butter,

And the mountains flowed with milk for me;

“As when I went early in the city,

And took my seat in the open square;

The young men saw me and hid,

And all the old men stood up.

The great men refrained from talking

And put their finger to their mouth.

Those who heard me blessed me,

And their tongue stuck to their throat.

The ear heard and blessed me,

And the eye saw me and turned aside.

For I saved the poor from the hand of the oppressor

And helped the orphan who had no helper.

The blessing of the perishing man came upon me,

And the widow’s mouth blessed me.

I put on righteousness

And clothed myself with judgment like a robe.

I was the eye of the blind and the foot of the lame.

I was the father of the weak,

And I searched out the cause I did not know.

I broke the molars of the wrongdoers

And plucked the spoil from the midst of their teeth.

“Then I said, ‘My age shall continue as the stem of a palm tree,

And I shall live a long while.’

My root was spread out to the waters,

And the dew would settle on my harvest.

My glory was fresh within me,

And my bow prospered in its hand.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 1 Kings 3:1-20 or 1 Samuel 3:1-20\*

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

The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. So on that day, while Eli was lying down in his place, his eyes were starting to grow heavy, barely able to see. Before the lamp of God went out, and while Samuel was asleep in the temple where the ark of God was, the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel answered, “Here I am!” So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And Eli said, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.” So he returned and lay down. Then the Lord called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” So Samuel went to Eli a second time, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Eli answered, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.”

Now this all happened before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. And he said, “Return, lie down, my child; and if He calls you, you must say, ‘O Lord, speak, for Your servant hears.’ ” So Samuel went and fell asleep in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold! I shall execute My words in Israel, and for everyone hearing them, both ears will tingle. In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything I spoke concerning his house. This I will begin, and I will finish it. For I announced to him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and he did not correct them in any way. I swore to the house of Eli that the iniquity of the house of Eli shall never be atoned for with incense or with sacrifice.”

So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord’s house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called to Samuel, “Samuel, my child!” And he answered, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you.” Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him.”

So Samuel grew and matured, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

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

Now it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land you are to inherit, you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Indeed are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of Canaan, the area that lies to the west near Gilgal, beside the lofty oak? For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to inherit the land the Lord your God is giving you; and you will inherit it all your days and dwell in it. Therefore, you shall be careful to do all the ordinances and judgments I set before you today.

“These are the ordinances and judgments you shall be careful to observe in the land the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to inherit, all the days you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places the nations you will inherit served their gods: on the high mountains, on the hills, and under the tree of the grove. So you shall destroy their altars, break their pillars, cut down their groves, burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and destroy their name from that place. You shall not do thus with the Lord your God. But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called on there; and you shall go and seek Him there. There you shall bring your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, firstfruits, prayers, voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your oxen and sheep. There you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God blessed you.

“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes— for as yet, you have not come to the rest and the inheritance the Lord your God gives you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, and you dwell in safety, then there will be the place the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all I command you today: your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the first fruits of your hands, and all your gifts and all your choice gifts you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself, do not offer your whole burnt offerings in every place you see; but in the place the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes; there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all I command you today.

“However, according to your every desire, you may slaughter and eat meat, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you in each city; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You may not eat the tithe in your cities: of your grain, wine, or olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen or sheep, of any of your offerings you vow, of your agreements, or of the firstfruits of your hands. But you must eat them before the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses, you and your son and daughter, your male and female servant, and the resident alien in your cities; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all to which you put your hand. Take heed to yourself, do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

“Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your oxen and sheep the Lord gave you in the manner I commanded you, and may eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life; the life will not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. Only the holy things you have and your vowed offerings you shall take and go to the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall offer your whole burnt offerings; you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall eat the meat.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 3 Kings 17:2-24 or 1 Kings 17:2-24

From the Third book of Kings.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there.” So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink.” She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But the woman said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” But Elijah said to her, “Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ” So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.

Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son.” But Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, “Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son.” Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him.” So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, “Behold, your son lives.” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 5:1-12

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

My son, hold fast to wisdom

And incline your ear to my words,

That you may guard good thinking;

And I command you with the perception of my lips.

Do not join yourself to a base woman,

For honey drips from the lips of a prostitute,

Or for a season she is pleasing to your taste;

Afterward, however, you will find her more bitter than gall

And sharper than a two-edged sword.

For feet lacking discernment lead those using her down into Hades with death;

Her footsteps are not planted,

For she does not travel the ways of life;

And her paths are slippery and not easy to discern.

Now therefore, my son, hear me,

And do not make my words invalid;

Make your way distant from her

And do not come near the doors of her house,

That you may not give away your life to others

And your existence to the merciless;

That strangers may not be filled with your strength,

And your labors go into the houses of strangers,

And you should feel regret at the last,

When the flesh of your body is consumed;

And you will say, “How I hated instruction

And turned my heart away from reproofs.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:1-9

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

And now, thus says the Lord God who made you, O Jacob, and who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I redeemed you. I called you by your name, for you are Mine. If you pass through water, I am with you; and the rivers shall not overflow you. If you pass through fire, you shall not be burned up, nor shall the flame consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, who saves you. I made Egypt and Ethiopia your ransom and gave Seba on your behalf. Since you were precious in My sight, you became glorious, and I love you. I will give many men for you and rulers to lead you. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Bring them,’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back. Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone called by My name.’ For in my glory I prepared him, and formed and made him. I brought forth the blind people, and their eyes are alike blind, and their ears deaf.” All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 30:9-32:5

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

“But now I am their lyre,

And they have me as their byword.

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

For He has opened His quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off restraint in my presence.

They rose up against me by the right hands of their offspring;

And they stretched out their foot

And directed against me their paths of destruction.

My paths are ruined, for they stripped off my garment.

He shot me down with His arrows

And used me as He wished.

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains are turned upon me.

My hope is gone like the wind

And my salvation like a cloud.

“Even now my soul will be poured forth upon me,

And the days of pains seize me.

By night my bones are set on fire,

And my sinews are broken up.

With great force He took hold of my garment,

And like the collar of my tunic He surrounded me.

You regarded me as clay in the earth,

And my portion is with ashes.

“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me.

They stood and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy

And scourged me with a strong hand.

You appointed pains for me

And cast me away from salvation.

For I know death will destroy me,

For the earth is the house for every mortal.

“Would that I might lay hands on myself,

Or at least ask another, and he would do it for me.

Yet I wept over every man without strength

And groaned when I saw a man in distress.

But while I held firmly to good things,

Days of evils happened to me instead.

My stomach churns and will not be quiet,

And days of poverty have come upon me.

I go groaning without restraint;

I stand up and cry out in the church.

I have become a brother of sirens

And a companion of sparrows.

My skin has been greatly darkened,

And my bones are burned by the heat.

My lyre turned into mourning

And my song into my weeping.

“I have made a covenant with my eyes,

And I will not think upon a virgin.

What has God apportioned from above,

And what is the inheritance of the Mighty One from on high?

Is not destruction for the wrongdoer,

And alienation for those who do lawlessness?

Will He not see my way and count all my steps?

“If I have walked with scorners,

Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

May He weigh me therefore with a just scale,

For He knows my integrity.

If my foot has turned from the way,

Or if my heart has followed after my eyes,

Or if gifts have touched my hands,

Then may I sow and others eat.

Yes, may I be uprooted on the earth.

“If my heart has followed after another man’s wife,

Or if I have laid wait at her door,

Then also may my wife please another,

And may my children be humiliated.

For the rage of anger is uncontrollable

In defiling another man’s wife.

For it is a fire burning on every side,

And whomever it comes upon, it destroys at the roots.

If I have despised the judgment of my servant or handmaid

When they judged me,

What then will I do when the Lord brings me to trial and visits me?

How shall I answer Him?

Did not He who made me in the womb make them?

So we were fashioned in the same womb.

“But the weak did not miss whatever they happened to need,

And I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.

If I ate my morsel by myself

And did not share it with the orphan

(But from my youth I nourished them as a father,

And from my mother’s womb I guided the widow);

If I have neglected the naked as he was perishing

And did not clothe him;

If the weak did not bless me,

And if their shoulders were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs;

If I raised my hand against the orphan,

Trusting that my strength was far superior to his,

Then let my shoulder fall from my collarbone;

Let my arm be torn from its socket.

For the fear of the Lord seized me,

And I cannot endure His burden.

If I have made gold my strength

Or trusted the precious stone,

If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,

And if I, too, laid my hand on countless treasures

(Or do I not see the shining sun eclipsed and the moon waning?

For this does not depend upon them);

If my heart has been secretly deceived,

And if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it,

Then may this also be reckoned to me

As the greatest lawlessness;

For I have lied against the Lord most high.

“If I, too, was glad at the fall of my enemies,

And my heart said, ‘Good! Well done!’

Then may my ear hear my curse,

And may I be a byword among my people in my affliction.

If my handmaids have often said,

‘Who may give us his meat to be satisfied?’

(But I was very kind.

For the stranger did not spend the night outside;

And my door was opened to everyone who came);

If I sinned involuntarily, then covered my sin,

(For I did not stand in awe of great multitude,

So as not to confess before them);

And if I permitted a poor man to go out of my door

With an empty bosom

(Who may listen to me?);

And if I had not feared the hand of the Lord,

And as to the document I had against someone,

I would place it as a crown on my shoulders and read it,

And if I did not tear it up and return it,

Having taken nothing from the debtor;

“If at any time the land groaned against me

And its furrows wept together,

If I have eaten its strength alone without paying,

Or if I also grieved the soul of the owner of the land

By casting him out,

Then may the nettle come to me instead of wheat,

And bramble instead of barley.”

Thus Job ceased speaking.

Job’s three friends also ceased answering him, for he was righteous before them. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, of the country of Ausitis, became furious; and he was very angry with Job, because he declared himself to be righteous before the Lord. He was also very angry with Job’s three friends, because they found no answer to Job, and yet affirmed he was an ungodly man. Now because they were years older than he, Elihu waited to speak to Job. So when Elihu saw there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:1-11

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

You shall proclaim wisdom

That discernment may obey you;

For she is on the lofty summit

And stands in the midst of the paths.

For she sits beside the gates of princes

And sings at the entrances,

“You, O men, I exhort,

And I utter my voice to the sons of men;

Understand astuteness, O simple ones,

And put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones.

Obey me, for I speak sacred things,

And from my lips I will bring forth things that are true.

For my mouth shall speak the truth,

But false lips are an abomination before me.

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness;

There is nothing in them crooked or twisted.

All things are evident to those who understand

And true to those who find knowledge.

Lay hold of instruction and not silver,

And knowledge rather than tested gold,

And choose perception rather than pure gold.

For wisdom is better than precious stones,

And every costly thing is not worthy of her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 43:10-28

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

“You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God, “and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God. “Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?”

Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. I am the Lord God, your Holy One, who made known your King, O Israel.” Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and l will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:6-16

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

So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

“I am young in years, and you are the elder;

Therefore I was silent

And dared not declare my knowledge to you.

I said, ‘It is not time that speaks,

Though in many years, men know wisdom.’

But there is a spirit in mortals,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches them.

The long-lived are not always wise,

Nor do the old men always know judgment.

“Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me,

I also will declare what I know.’

Pay close attention to my words,

For I will speak in your hearing, while you examine my words,

And until I shall understand you.

So behold, not one of you answered Job in argument;

Lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom added to the Lord.’

But you permitted a man to speak such words.

“They were dismayed and answered no more;

They made their words obsolete.

I waited, for they did not speak.

Because they stood still, they did not answer.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 8:12-21

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

I, wisdom, dwell with counsel,

And I call upon knowledge and understanding.

The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness,

And both rudeness and arrogance, and the ways of wicked men;

And I hate the perverted ways of evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

Discernment is mine, and strength is mine;

By me, kings reign,

And princes write of righteousness;

By me, noblemen become great,

And by me, monarchs have power in the land.

I love those who love me,

And those who seek me shall find me.

Riches and glory belong to me,

And abundant possessions, and righteousness;

It is better to enjoy my fruits than gold and precious stones,

And my fruits are better than choice silver.

I walk in the ways of righteousness,

And I am conversant with the paths of judgment;

That I may distribute substance to those who love me,

And may fill their treasuries with good things.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:1-8

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

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: “You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: “I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God. Who is just as I am? Then let him stand, let him call and prepare for Me that from which I made man forever, and let them declare to you the things that are coming before they come. Do not hide yourselves. Have you not paid attention from the beginning, and have I not declared it to you? You are My witnesses, if there is a God besides Me? Indeed there was none.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 32:17-33:33

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

Then Elihu continued and said:

‘Again I will speak, for I am full of words;

The spirit within my stomach is killing me.

Indeed, my stomach is like a wineskin of sweet new wine,

Bound up and ready to burst,

Or like the blowpipe of a coppersmith, ready to bellow.

I will speak, that I may find relief in opening my lips.

I will not feel shame before any man,

Neither indeed will I feel shame before any mortal.

For I do not know how to flatter persons,

Or else the moths would eat me.

“Nevertheless, hear my words, Job,

And pay close attention to what I say.

For behold, I have opened my mouth

And my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart shall be found pure;

And the understanding of my lips will think pure thoughts.

The divine Spirit has made me,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches me.

Give me an answer to these things if you can.

Endure and stand firm against me, and I against you.

You and I were formed out of the clay;

Thus, we have been formed out of the same substance.

My fear will not distract you,

Neither shall my hand be heavy on you.

“However you said in my hearing

(I heard the voice of your words),

For you say, ‘I am pure, for I have not sinned.

I am blameless, for I have not acted lawlessly.

Yet He has found a charge against me;

He has counted me as His enemy.

He has put my feet in the stocks,

And He watches all my paths.’

“For how can you say,

‘I am righteous, yet He has not listened to me’?

For He that is above mortals is eternal.

But you say, ‘Why has He not heard every word of my cause?’

For when the Lord speaks once,

Or in another time in a dream,

Or in a meditation of the night

(As when dreadful fear falls upon men

While slumbering on their bed),

Then He unveils the hearts of men

And frightens them with such fearful visions

So as to turn man from his wrongdoing;

Thus He delivers his body from a fall.

He keeps back his soul from death

And does not allow him to fall in war.

“Again He also chastens him with sickness on his bed,

And the multitude of his bones grow numb.

He is not able to receive any food,

Though his soul may long for it,

Until his flesh wastes away

And he shows his bones bare.

His soul also draws near to death

And his life to Hades.

“If there are a thousand death-bringing messengers,

None of them shall wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn to the Lord,

And declares to man his fault, and shows his folly,

He will support him, that he might not fall into death;

And He will renew his body like fresh plaster upon a wall,

And fill his bones with marrow.

He will make his flesh young like a child’s

And restore him among men in full manhood.

He shall pray to the Lord, and his prayer shall be accepted.

He shall come to prayer with an innocent face

And with an utterance of thanksgiving,

For He will restore righteousness to men.

Even then, a man shall blame himself, saying,

‘I am to blame because of what I did,

Yet He has not examined my guilt

To the extent of my unworthiness.’

Save my soul from going down to corruption,

So my life shall see the light.

“Behold all these things:

The Mighty One works three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death

That my life may praise Him in the light.

“Give ear, Job; listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will speak.

If you have anything to say, answer me;

Speak, for I desire you to be declared as righteous.

If not, listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 5:1-27 or 2 Kings 5:1-27\*

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Naaman, commander of the army of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord gave victory to Syria. The man was mighty in strength and valor, but a leper. And the Syrians, lightly armed, had gone out on raids and brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet of God in Samaria! For he would expel his leprosy from him.” And she went in and told her master, saying, “This is what the girl from the land of Israel said.” Then the king of Syria said to Naaman, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand gold shekels, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, “Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I am sending Naaman my servant to you, so that you may heal him of his leprosy.”

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, able to kill and make alive, to heal this man of his leprosy that this man sends to me? You perceive and see that this man is using this as a pretext for a quarrel with me.” When Elisha the man of God heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent notice to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel.”

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became furious and went away, saying, “Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

Then his servants approached and said to him, “If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, ‘Bathe and be clean.’ ” So Naaman went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha’s instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed. Then he, with all his aides, returned to Elisha and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I have come to know that in all the earth there is no God except the God of Israel. Now accept the gift of your servant.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” Again he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, “If not, then, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of red earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful with your servant: when my master goes there, to the house of Rimmon, to worship, he will rely on my hand, and I will worship in the house of Rimmon. In the worship in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter.” Then Elisha said to Naaman, “Go in peace.”

He departed from him but a short distance. Then Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, said, “Behold, my master spared this Syrian Naaman, yet from his hand he received nothing of what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something of his.” So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he turned from the chariot to meet him. And Gehazi said, “Peace. My master sent me saying, ‘Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets came to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.’ ” Then Naaman said, “Take two talents of silver.” So Gehazi took two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants. They left and carried them on ahead of him. As they entered into the darkness, he took them from their hands and stored them in the house. He then dismissed the men. Now he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, “From where have you come, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.”

Then Elisha said to him, “Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? And now you received the silver and the garments, and it shall happen that you shall receive from him gardens and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and men-servants and handmaidens. And the leprosy of Naaman shall also cling to you and your seed forever.” Thus he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Exodus 10:1-11:10

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

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death.” So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you.” But Moses said, “No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Thus our cattle shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.”

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, “Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die.” So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Now the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here. Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing.” So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne even to the firstborn of the female servant behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against not even one of the descendants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.’ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go from here, and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 44:21-28

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

“Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you to be My servant; therefore, you, O Israel, do not forget Me. For behold, I blotted out your lawlessness like a cloud and your sins like darkness. Return to Me, and I will redeem you. Be glad, O heavens, for the Lord had mercy on Israel. Sound the trumpet, you foundations of the earth; shout with gladness, you mountains and hills and every tree on them. For God redeemed Jacob, and Israel will be glorified.”

Thus says the Lord, who redeems you and forms you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who accomplishes all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and established the earth. Who else will scatter abroad the sign of ventriloquists and the divinations from their heart, turning their shrewd men backward and making their counsel foolishness? Who else establishes the word of His servant, proving the counsel of His messengers to be true? Who else says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ and to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built, and the desert places shall spring forth’? Who else says to the deep, ‘You shall be dried up, and I will dry up your rivers’? Who else tells Cyrus to be wise, and do all My will, and says to Jerusalem, ‘You will be built, and I shall lay the foundation of My holy house’?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 8:23-35

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

The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works;

He established me in the beginning before time,

Before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses,

Before the going forth of the fountains of waters,

Before the mountains were created;

And He begot me before all hills.

The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places

And the inhabited heights under heaven.

When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him,

And when He set apart His throne upon the winds.

When He made strong the things above the clouds,

And made sure the fountains under heaven,

And made strong the foundations of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

I was He in whom He rejoiced;

Daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.

When He completed the world, He rejoiced,

And He rejoiced in the sons of men.

Now therefore, my son, hear me:

Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me

And the man who shall guard my ways;

Who watches daily at my doors,

Who keeps watch at the doors of my entryways;

For my issues are the issues of life,

And grace is prepared from the Lord.

But those who sin against me act ungodly toward their own souls,

And those who hate me love death.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 34:1-37

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

Elihu continued and said:

“Hear me, O wise men who are present,

And pay close attention to what is good.

For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for ourselves;

Let us know among ourselves what is good.

For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,

And the Lord has taken away my judgment.’

But he spoke untruth in my judgment when he said,

‘My wound is severe, though I am without wrongdoing.’

What man is like Job,

Who drinks scorn like water?

For he says, ‘I have not sinned, nor committed ungodliness,

Nor had anything in common with the workers of lawlessness,

So as to walk with ungodly men.’

For you should not say, ‘There shall be no visitation of a man,’

Whereas there is a visitation on him from the Lord.

“Therefore listen to me, you wise in heart:

May it be far from me to act in an ungodly way before the Lord

And to pervert righteousness before the Almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

And in a man’s path He will find him.

Do you think the Lord will do wrong,

Or will the Almighty who made the earth pervert judgment?

Who is He who created everything under heaven

And all things therein?

If He should wish to hold and restrain His breath within Himself,

All flesh would die together,

And every mortal would return to the ground

From which he was formed.

Take heed to this, lest He warn you;

Pay close attention to the voice of His words.

Behold then the one who hates lawless things

And destroys the evil ones.

He is forever righteous.

He is ungodly who says to a king,

‘You act contrary to the law,’

And to rulers, ‘O, most ungodly one.’

Such a man is not ashamed

Before the face of an honorable man,

Nor does he know how to give honor to the great,

So as to show proper respect.

But it will prove to be in vain for them to cry out

And beg the favor of a man;

For they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

“For He is the observer of the works of man,

And nothing of what they do escapes Him.

There is no place for the workers of lawlessness to hide themselves.

He need not further consider a man,

For the Lord gazes upon all men.

He comprehends unsearchable things,

Glorious also and extraordinary things without number.

He discloses their works;

And He will overthrow them in the night,

And they will be brought low.

He extinguishes the ungodly,

For they are visible before Him,

Because they turned aside from the law of God

And would not regard His ordinances,

So as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;

For He will hear the cry of the poor.

He will provide quietness, and who shall condemn Him?

And He will hide His face, and who shall see Him?

Whether it be done against a nation or a man jointly,

To cause a hypocrite to be king,

Because of the discontent of the people.

“For there is one that says to the Mighty One,

‘I have received blessings; I will not take in pledge;

I will see apart from myself;

Show me if I have done unrighteousness,

And I will do so no more.’

Will He not take vengeance for it from you,

Because you failed to listen to your conscience?

For you will choose, and not I;

Therefore, speak what you know.

“For this reason wise men in heart shall say this,

And a wise man listens to my word.

But Job has spoken without understanding,

And his words are without knowledge.

But learn, Job, and no longer answer like that of foolish men,

That we add not to our sins;

For lawlessness will be counted against us

If we speak many words against the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 10:1-31

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

As goes the leader of a people, so also are his officials,

And all the inhabitants of a city will reflect its ruler.

An undisciplined king will ruin his people,

But a city will be made habitable through the wisdom of its rulers.

The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord,

And He will raise up the right man for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the hand of the Lord,

And He confers His honor upon the person of the scribe.

Do not cherish anger against your neighbor for any injury,

And do nothing by acts of insolence.

Arrogance is hateful before God and man,

And wrongdoing is offensive to both.

Dominion is transferred from nation to nation

Because of wrongdoing, insolence, and wealth.

How can he who is earth and ashes be arrogant?

Because even while living, his insides are decaying.

A physician scoffs at a long illness,

And a king today will also die tomorrow.

When a man dies, he will inherit

Reptiles, wild animals, and worms.

The beginning of a man’s arrogance is to depart from the Lord,

For his heart withdraws from the One who created him.

For the beginning of arrogance is sin,

And he who takes hold of it will pour out an abomination.

Therefore the Lord will bring them extraordinary distress

And completely destroy them.

The Lord pulls down the thrones of rulers

And seats the gentle in their place.

The Lord plucks out the roots of nations

And plants the humble in their place.

The Lord overthrows the lands of the nations

And destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,

And puts an end to their memory on the earth.

Arrogance was not created by mankind,

Nor fierce anger by the offspring of women.

What kind of seed is honored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honored?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

Those who transgress the commandments.

Among brothers their leader is honored,

And those who fear the Lord are honored in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority,

But roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

The rich and the honored and the poor alike—

Their boasting is the fear of the Lord.

It is not right to dishonor an intelligent poor man,

Nor is it proper to honor a sinful man.

The nobleman, the judge, and the ruler will be honored,

But none of them is greater than the one who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a wise servant,

And an understanding man will not grumble.

Do not put your wisdom on display when you do your work,

Nor magnify yourself in the time of your trouble.

Better is he who works and has plenty

Than he who magnifies himself but has no bread.

My son, honor your soul with gentleness

And give it honor according to its worth.

Who will declare righteous the man who sins against his soul,

And who will honor the man who dishonors his life?

A poor man is honored for his knowledge,

While a rich man is honored for his wealth.

If a man is honored in poverty,

How much more in wealth,

And if a man is dishonored in wealth,

How much more in poverty?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### 4 Kings 4:8-37 or 2 Kings 4:8-37

From the Fourth book of Kings.

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, “Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place.” Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, “Call this Shunammite woman.” He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, “Say now to her, ‘Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?’ ” But she answered, “I dwell among my own people.”

So Elisha said, “What then is to be done for her?” And his servant, Gehazi, replied, “She certainly has no son, and her husband is old.” Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said, “About this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” So she said, “No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!” Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew.

And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” His father said to a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, “Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back.” So he said, “Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath.” And she replied, “It is well.”

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’ ” And she answered, “Peace.” Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me.” So she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?”

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child.” Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child’s face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child is not awakened.”

Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite woman.” So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, “Take your son.” So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:1-10

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

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. “I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:1-11

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

Wisdom built her house,

And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;

She mixed her wine in a bowl

And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,

Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,

Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 35:1-16

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

Elihu continued, saying:

“What is this you consider as judgment?

Who are you to say, ‘I am righteous before the Lord’?

Or will you say, ‘What did I do, if I have sinned?’

“I will answer you and your three friends.

Look up to heaven and see,

And observe the cloud as higher than you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

If you have acted very lawlessly, what can you do?

Since therefore you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what did He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness may affect a man such as you,

Or your righteousness a son of man.

“Those who are slandered by a multitude will cry out;

They will cry out for help because of the strength of the many.

But no one says, ‘Where is the God who made me,

Who appoints the night watches,

Who distinguishes me from the four-footed animals of the earth

And from the birds of heaven?’

There they will cry out, but no one answers,

Because of the insolence of evil men.

For the Lord does not desire to look on wrongdoing,

For He, the Almighty, is the observer

Of those who perform lawless deeds,

But He will save me.

Decide before Him if you can praise Him as it is now possible.

But now, He is not visiting His wrath,

Nor even taking notice of very much transgression;

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain;

In ignorance he burdens us with words.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 11:1-10

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The wisdom of a humble man will exalt his head,

And he will take his seat among the great.

Do not praise a man for his good looks,

And do not detest one because of his appearance.

The bee is small among winged creatures,

But her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast about your fine clothes,

Nor magnify yourself in the day you are honored;

Because the works of the Lord are wondrous,

And His works are hidden from men.

Many tyrants have sat on the ground,

But one never thought of has worn a crown.

Many rulers have suffered exceeding disgrace,

And honored men have been betrayed into the hands of others.

Do not find fault before you examine a situation.

First, understand it, and then make your judgment.

Do not answer before you have listened,

And do not interrupt someone while he is talking.

Do not argue about a matter that does not concern you,

And do not sit together with sinners when they judge a case.

My son, do not let your business involve too many things.

If you multiply them, you will not remain unpunished,

And if you pursue them, you will not overtake them;

And you will not escape by running away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 22:1-18

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

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham! Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” He then replied, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, “In the mountain the Lord was seen.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 45:11-17

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

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: “Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven and commanded all the stars. I raised him up to be a king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts,” says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass over to you. They shall be your servants and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say, ‘There is no God besides You. For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.’ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 9:12-21

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

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths,

“He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me;

And he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying,

‘Grasp with pleasure the secret bread

And the sweet water of theft.’ ”

But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her,

And he happens upon a snare of Hades.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 36:1-32\*

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

Elihu also proceeded and said:

‘Wait for me yet a little while, that I may teach you,

For there is yet more for me to say.

I will gather my knowledge from afar

And truly speak of righteousness in my works.

You were not hearing unjust words without good reason.

“But know that the Lord who is mighty in strength of heart

Does not cast off an innocent man.

He will not give life to the ungodly,

But He will give judgment to the poor.

He will not turn away from the righteous,

But will seat them on the throne with kings;

For He will lift them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But if they are bound in fetters,

They shall be held in the cords of poverty.

He will tell them their works and their transgressions,

For such will act with violence.

He also will hear the righteous,

And He said they will turn from wrongdoing.

If they give ear and serve Him,

They shall spend their days in good things

And their years in dignity.

But He does not save the ungodly,

Because they are not willing to know the Lord,

And because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

“For the hypocrites in heart will marshal anger against themselves,

And they will not cry for help, because He has bound them.

Therefore, may their soul die in youth,

And their life be wounded by messengers of death,

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

And He will make manifest the judgment of the gentle.

“Besides, He deceived you by the mouth of the enemy.

There is an abyss and a pouring over beneath it,

And your table descended full of fatness.

Judgment shall not fail from the righteous,

But there shall be anger against the ungodly

Because of the ungodliness of the gifts they received for wrongdoings.

Let not your heart willingly turn you aside

From the petition of the weak who are in distress.

Do not lure away all the mighty men at night

So the people should go up instead of them.

“But guard yourself, lest you do what is wrong,

For you chose this because of poverty.

Behold, the Mighty One shall prevail by His strength.

Who is so powerful as He?

Who is he who examines His works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done unjustly’?

“Remember, His works are great,

Because of which men began to exist.

Everyone has seen for himself

How many mortals are wounded.

“Behold, the Mighty One is great,

And we do not know Him.

The number of His years is also endless.

For He numbers the drops of rain,

And they shall be poured out in rain to form a cloud.

The ancient clouds shall drop down

And overshadow innumerable mortals.

He has fixed a time for cattle,

And they know the appointed time for their rest.

Yet your mind is not astonished by these things,

Nor does your heart leap out from your body.

For one should perceive the outspreadings of a cloud

And the measure of His tabernacle.

Behold, He stretches His bow against him

And covers the bottom of the sea.

For by these He will judge the peoples.

He will give food to him who has strength.

He has hidden light in His hands

And given orders to the cloud by which it is diverted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Kitchener and Ottawa, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Job 37:1-24\*

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

“At this also my heart was troubled and flows from its place.

Listen attentively to the thunder of the Lord’s wrath

And the discourse coming from His mouth.

His dominion is under the whole heaven

And His light to the ends of the earth.

Behind Him a voice will cry aloud.

He will thunder with His voice of outrage,

Yet He will not change them when His voice is heard.

The Mighty One will thunder marvelously with His voice,

For He does great things we cannot comprehend.

For He commands the snow, ‘Fall upon the earth,’

And likewise there is the winter,

The rain and the winter storms of His might.

He seals up the hand of every man

That everyone may know his weakness.

The wild animals go into their shelters

And are at rest in their lairs.

From the secret chambers comes the whirlwind,

And cold from the mountaintop.

By the breath of the Mighty One, He will send frost,

And He freezes the waters as He wishes.

And when the cloud obscures what He chooses,

His light will disperse the cloud.

He will swirl the encircling clouds by His governance

To perform all their works,

Moving them to do whatever He commands.

This has been appointed by Him on the earth,

Whether for correction or for His earth,

Or if He shall find him an object for mercy.

“Pay close attention to this, O Job.

Stand still and consider the power of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed His works,

Having made light out of darkness.

He knows the division of the clouds

And the violent falls of evil men.

But your robe is warm,

And there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish with Him the foundations

For the ancient heavens?

They are strong like a molten mirror.

“What is this to you? Teach me what we will say to Him,

And let us cease speaking many words.

Have I a book or scribe by me

That I may stand and put man to silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the ancient heavens,

As that which is from Him in the clouds.

From the north come the clouds, shining like gold;

In these great things are the glory and honor of the Almighty.

We do not find another like Him in His strength.

Do you not think He who judges righteously listens?

Therefore men shall fear Him,

And the wise in heart shall fear Him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*Found in Ottawa and Kitchener, lacking in Southern United States.

##### Tobit 1:1-3:6

From the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the book of the words of Tobit, the son of Tobiel, the son of Hananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, from the tribe of Naphtali. He was led captive out of Thisbe in the days of Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians. Thisbe is south of Kedesh Naphtali, in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I did much almsgiving to my brethren and to the people who journeyed with me as exiles to Nineveh, in the country of the Assyrians. In my young days, when I was in my own country, the land of Israel, the entire tribe of my father Naphtali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to sacrifice for all the tribes. This temple, the habitation of the Most High God, was sanctified and built for all generations forever.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt sacrificed the heifer to Baal. The house of Naphtali, the tribe of my father, also revolted. But I alone traveled frequently to Jerusalem for the feast days, as it is written for all of Israel in an everlasting ordinance. I would carry the firstfruits and the tithes of my harvest and the first-shearing. These I would give to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I would offer the tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi who served at Jerusalem. I would also sell off the second tenth and go and spend it at Jerusalem each year. The third tenth I would give to whom it was fitting, as Deborah the mother of my father commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. When I became a man, I took Anna for a wife from my own kindred. With her I became the father of Tobias.

When I was taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those from my race ate from the bread of the Gentiles. But I protected myself by not eating it. For I remembered God with all my soul. So the Most High gave me grace and comeliness before Shalmaneser, and I became his purchasing agent. I would go into Media. And one time in Rages of Media, I entrusted to Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, ten talents of silver.

When Shalmaneser died and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the roads were unstable and I could no longer travel to Media. In the days of Shalmaneser, I did much almsgiving to my brothers. I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked. If I saw anyone of my people dead, cast outside the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him. If King Sennacherib put someone to death when he came trying to escape from Judea, I buried them secretly. For in his anger, he put many to death, and the bodies were sought by the king; but they were not found. But one of the men of Nineveh went and made known to the king concerning my burying them. So I hid, and when I knew I was being sought to be put to death I was frightened and ran away. All of my possessions were seized and I had nothing left, except Anna my wife and Tobias my son.

But not even fifty days passed before two of King Sennacherib’s sons had killed him and escaped into the mountains of Ararat. Thus Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Anael, to be over all the accounts of his kingdom and over the entire government. Ahikar then entreated on my behalf, so I came to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was the wine-pourer, the keeper of the signet ring, the administrator and the accountant. Esarhaddon appointed him second to himself, and he was my nephew.

When I arrived at my house, my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the Feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A good dinner was prepared for me, so I sat down at the table to eat. When I saw the abundance of meat, I said to my son, “Go and bring whomever you may find of our needy brethren who are mindful of the Lord. Behold, I will wait for you.” But he came back and said, “O father, one of our people was strangled and thrown into the marketplace.” So before I even tasted anything, I jumped up and carried the corpse into a room until sunset. Then I returned, bathed myself, and ate my bread in sorrow. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said,

“Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

And all your gladness into a song of grief.”

So I wept. When the sun went down, I departed, and after digging a grave, I buried him. My neighbors laughed at me and said, “He is no longer afraid to be put to death for doing such a thing. He ran away before, and now, behold, he is burying the dead again.”

On the same night that I buried him, I returned home. But since I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the courtyard with my face uncovered.

However, I did not see the sparrows on the wall, for while my eyes were open the sparrows discharged their droppings into my eyes, and they became white films in my eyes. I went to physicians, but they could not help me. Then Ahikar supported me until he left for Elymais.

Then my wife Anna worked for hire at what women do. She would send her work to the owners and they would pay her. On one occasion they paid her wages and also gave her a small goat. But when she returned to me, it began to bleat. So I said to her, “Where did this goat come from? Is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is unlawful to eat what is stolen.” But she replied, “It was given to me as a gift. It was in addition to my wages.” But I did not believe her, telling her to return it to its owners. I blushed in embarrassment for her sake. So she answered and said to me, “Are your acts of charity and righteous deeds lawful? Behold, you are a know-it-all!”

Then I wept in my sorrow, and with pain I prayed, saying:

“O Lord, You are righteous. So too are all Your works. All Your ways are mercy and truth. Your judgments are true and just forever. Remember me and look upon me with favor. Do not punish me for my sins and my ignorance, nor those sins of my fathers which they committed against You. Because they disobeyed Your commands, so You gave us as spoil, captivity and death. You made us a byword of disgrace among all the nations in which we were scattered. Now Your judgments concerning my sins are many and they are true, because I did them, and so did my fathers. For we did not keep Your commandments. Indeed we did not walk in truth before You. Now do with me as is best before You. Command that my spirit be taken up, so I may be released and become soil, since it is better for me to die than to live. For I have heard false insults, and there is much sorrow within me. Command that I be freed from distress to now enter into the eternal place. Do not turn Your face away from me.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 3:7-3:16

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On the same day, in Ecbatana of Media, Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, happened to be insulted by her father’s maids. She was married to seven husbands, but before they could be with her as a wife, Asmodeus, the evil demon, killed them. So they said to her, “Do you not recollect that you strangled these husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Therefore, why punish us? If they are dead, go with them. May we never see a son or daughter of yours.”

When she heard this, she was so distressed that she considered hanging herself. But she said, “I am the only one of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades.” So she prayed by her window and said:

“Blessed are You, O Lord my God. Blessed is Your holy and precious name unto the ages. May all Your works bless You forever. Now, O Lord, I offer myself completely to You. Command that I be released from the land, that I may not hear such disgrace any more. O Lord, You know that I am innocent of any sin with a man. I have not defiled my name nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am my father’s only offspring. He has no other child who will be his heir. Neither does he have a brother close at hand, nor an adopted son that I might keep myself as a wife to him. Seven of my husbands have already perished. What should I live for? But if it does not seem good to You to kill me, command that I be looked upon with favor, and that mercy be shown to me, so I may no longer hear disgrace.”

The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the great glory of Raphael, and he was sent to heal the two of them: to remove the white films from Tobit; to give Sarah of Raguel to Tobias the son of Tobit as a wife; and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for it fell upon Tobias to inherit her. At that same time Tobit returned and entered his house, and Sarah of Raguel came down from her upstairs room.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 4:1-6:9

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On that day Tobit remembered the silver he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said to himself, “I requested death for myself. Why do I not call my son Tobias to make this known to him before I die?”

So he summoned him and said, “My son, if I die, bury me, but do not disregard your mother. Honor her all the days of your life. Do what is pleasing to her, but do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she experienced many dangers for you while you were in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in the same grave. My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not desire to sin or to disobey His commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing. For if you walk in the truth, you will be successful in your works. Do almsgiving from your possessions to all who do righteousness. When you do almsgiving, do not let your eye be envious. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, so the face of God will not be turned away from you. Do almsgiving based on the quantity of your possessions. If you possess only a few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. You are storing up a good treasure for yourself in the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers us from death and prevents us from entering into the darkness. Indeed, almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

“My son, guard yourself from all fornication, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers. Do not take a foreign woman who is not from the tribe of your father, for we are sons of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers from of old. Remember, my son, that all these took wives from among their brothers and were blessed in their children. Their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brothers and do not be arrogant in your heart against your brothers, the sons and daughters of your people. Take a wife for yourself from them, for arrogance brings destruction and great disorder, and in such worthlessness there is loss and great defect. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

“Do not keep overnight the wages of any man who works for you, but pay him immediately. If you serve God, He will pay you. Give heed to yourself, my son, in all your works, and be disciplined in all your conduct. What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine unto a state of drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness become your traveling companion. From your bread, give to him who is hungry, and from your clothing, give to the naked. If you have more than you need, do almsgiving, and do not let your eye envy the almsgiving when you do it. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but do not give it to sinners.

“Seek counsel from every sensible man, and do not treat any useful advice with contempt. At every opportunity bless the Lord God, but more than this ask that your ways may become straight, and that all your paths and purposes may prosper. For not every nation has understanding. But the Lord Himself gives all that is good, and as He desires He humbles whomever He will. Now my son, let none of my commandments be removed from your heart.

“Now let me point out to you the ten talents of silver I entrusted to Gabael the son of Gabrias, in Rages of Media. Do not fear, my son, that we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God. Stay away from every sin, and do what is pleasing before Him.”

Tobias answered him and said, “O father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how will I be able to obtain the silver, for I do not know him?” Then he gave him the record of the debt and said to him, “Find for yourself a man who will travel with you, and I will pay him his wages as long as I remain alive. Now go and obtain the silver.”

Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel. But he did not know it. So Tobias said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages of Media? Are you acquainted with those places?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you. I am acquainted with the roadways and I have lodged with our brother Gabael.” Tobias said to him, “Wait for me and I will tell my father.” He said to him, “Do so, but do not delay.”

So he went to his father and said, “Behold, I have found someone who will go with me.” But his father said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is trustworthy enough to go with you.” So he invited him, and Raphael came in. They greeted one another cordially.

Tobit then said to him, “Brother, to what tribe and kindred do you belong?” Raphael responded, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a hired man to go with your son?” Tobit replied, “Brother, I wish to know your people and your name.” Then he said, “I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the Great, one of your relatives.” So Tobit said to him, “You are most welcome, my brother. Do be not angry with me for seeking to learn of your tribe and your family. As it turns out, you are a brother of mine from a good and upright family. For I knew Ananias and Jonathan, the sons of Shemiah the Great, since we would journey in common to Jerusalem to worship and to offer the firstborn and the tenth of our harvest. They were not led astray in the deception of our brothers. My brother, you are from a good root.

“But tell me, what shall I give you as wages? A drachma a day and expenses for you and my son? I will even add more to your pay, if you both return in good health.” Thus they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobias, “Prepare for the journey, and may it be prosperous.” So his son prepared the things for the journey. Then his father said to him, “Go with this man, and may the God who dwells in heaven prosper your journey. May His angel journey with you.” They both departed, and the young man’s dog went with them.

But Anna his mother wept and said to Tobit, “Why have you sent our son away, or is he not the staff of our hands when he goes in and out before us? Do not attain silver upon silver, but may it be dirt compared to our son. For as he was given to us to live by the Lord, this is sufficient for our existence.” Tobit said to her, “My sister, do not be concerned. He shall return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey shall be prosperous. He will return in good health.” So she ceased weeping.

They went on the journey and came to the Tigris River. So they spent the evening there. The young man went down to wash himself, and a fish jumped up from the river and was determined to swallow the young man. The angel said to him, “Take hold of the fish.” So the young man grabbed the fish and put it on the bank. Then the angel said to him, “Cut open the fish. Take the heart, the liver, and the gall and put them in a safe place.” The young man did as the angel commanded him. Then they cooked the fish and ate it.

After this, they traveled together until they came near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, what is the purpose of the liver, the heart, and the gall of the fish?” He replied, “If a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, the heart and the liver must be used to make smoke before the man or woman, and that person will never be troubled again. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man who has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 6:10-9:6

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As they came near Rages, the angel said to the young man, “Brother, we will spend the night with Raguel. He is your relative and with him is his only child, a daughter named Sarah. I will speak for her that she might be given to you as a wife, because her inheritance belongs to you; for you alone are from her people. The girl is beautiful and she is sensible.

“So now listen to me, for I will speak to her father. When we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding. For I know that Raguel cannot give her to any other man according to the rule of Moses, or he will be subject to death. Thus it is proper that you receive the inheritance rather than another man.”

Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, I have heard the girl was given seven husbands, and they all perished in the bridal chamber. Now I am the only son of my father, and I fear for myself lest, entering the bridal chamber, I may die even as those before me. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone except those who approach her. Now I fear for myself lest I die and bring the life of my father and mother down into their tomb with grief and sorrow upon me. They have no other son who will bury them.”

But the angel said to him, “Do you not remember the words your father commanded you, to take a wife for yourself from among your people? Now listen to me, brother, for she will be a wife to you. As for the demon, have no concern, for this night she will be given to you as a wife. If you enter the bridal chamber, you will take with you ashes of incense, and lay some of it on the heart and liver of the fish. Then you will make smoke, and the demon will smell it and flee and never return. When you approach her, both of you will rise up and cry out to the merciful God. He will save you and be merciful. Do not fear for yourself, for she has been prepared for you from of old. You will save her and she will go with you. I believe that you will have children by her.”

As Tobias heard these words, he loved her and his soul was very much united to her.

Then they went to Ecbatana and came to the house of Raguel. Sarah went ahead to meet them, and after they greeted one another, she escorted them into the house. Raguel said to Edna his wife, “How the young man resembles my cousin Tobit!” Then Raguel asked them, “Where are you from, brothers?” They answered, “We are from the sons of Naphtali who are captives in Nineveh.” Then he said to them, “Do you know Tobit our brother?” They responded, “We know him.” Then he asked, “Is he in good health?” They answered, “He is alive and in good health.” Tobias then added, “He is my father.”

Raguel jumped up and kissed him and wept. He blessed him and said to him, “You are the son of a good and noble man!” But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept. Edna his wife and Sarah his daughter also wept, and they received them eagerly. And they killed a ram from the sheep and set many dishes before them.

Then Tobias said to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak about what you said on the way, and let the matter be completed.” So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, “Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting for you to marry my child. However, I must tell you the truth. I gave my daughter to seven men, and when they went in to her, they died during the night. But for now, be glad!” But Tobias said, “I will not eat anything until after you establish an agreement with me.” So Raguel said, “Receive her according to the decree, for you are her relative and she is yours. The merciful God will prosper you in what is good.”

So he called Sarah his daughter, and taking her by the hand, he gave her to be a wife for Tobias. Then he said, “Behold, receive her according to the decree of Moses, and bring her before your father.” He then blessed them and summoned his wife Edna. She took a scroll and wrote out the agreement. They sealed it, and then they began to eat.

After this, Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, “Sister, prepare the other room and lead her into it.” She did as he said and led her there. Then Sarah wept, but Edna understood the tears of her daughter and said to her, “Be courageous, my child. May the Lord of heaven and earth give you grace instead of this sorrow of yours. Be courageous, my daughter.”

When they finished dining, they led Tobias to her. As he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon the embers of the incense and made smoke. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled to the upper parts of Egypt, and there the angel bound him. While both were enclosed in the room, Tobias rose up from the bed and said, “Arise, sister, and let us pray that the Lord will have mercy upon us.” So Tobias began to pray, saying:

“Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and blessed is Your holy and glorious name unto the ages. The heavens and all Your creatures bless You. You made Adam and gave him Eve as a helper, his wife as a support. From them the seed of mankind came to be. You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Us make a helper for him like himself.’ O Lord, I now take this my sister as my wife, not on account of fornication, but in truth. Command that she and I may have mercy, and in this grow old together.”

And with him she said, “Amen.” Then both fell asleep for the night.

But Raguel rose up and went outside and dug a grave, saying, “He, too, may have died.” Raguel then went back into his house and said to his wife Edna, “Send one of the maids and let her see if indeed Tobias is alive. If he is not, let us bury him that no one may know.” So the maid went to the door, and when she opened it she found both of them sleeping. She came out and told the two of them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying:

“Blessed are You, the God, with every pure and holy blessing. Your holy ones and all Your creatures bless You. All Your angels and Your chosen ones bless You unto all the ages. Blessed are You, for You have made me glad, and it did not turn out for me as I suspected. Rather, You did with us according to Your abundant mercy. Blessed are You, for You had mercy on our two only children. O Lord, show them mercy, and complete their life in health and with gladness and mercy.”

Then he ordered his household servants to fill in the grave.

After this he provided a wedding feast for them lasting fourteen days. Before the time of the wedding feast was over, Raguel swore an oath and said to Tobias, “You are not to leave from here unless the two of you stay the fourteen days of the wedding feast. At that time take half of my belongings and go in good health to your father. The remainder will be yours when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant and two camels with you and journey to Rages of Media. Find Gabael and bring the silver back to me and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn an oath for me not to go away. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay much longer he will be very distressed.” Then Raphael went and spent the night with Gabael, and gave him the handwritten receipt. So Gabael brought the small sealed bags and gave them to him. They both rose early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. Then Tobias blessed his wife.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 10:1-11:19

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit his father was counting each day. But when the days needed to complete the journey ended and they had not returned, he asked, “Has he perhaps been dishonored? Or has Gabael died and no one gave him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife told him, “The young man has perished. That is why he is delayed.” Then she began to weep for him and said, “Nothing matters to me, my child, the light of my eyes, for I permitted you to go.” So Tobit said to her, “Be silent and have no more thoughts about it. He is in good health.”

She replied to him, “You be quiet. Do not deceive me. My child has perished.” Then throughout the day she went outside to the road by which he departed, and during the day she did not eat bread. At night she did not cease lamenting for her son Tobias until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were over, the days Raguel swore him to celebrate there.

Then Tobias said to Raguel, “Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope they will see me.” But his father-in-law said to him, “Stay with me, and I will send messengers to your father. They will make clear to him how you are doing.” But Tobias said, “No indeed. On the contrary, send me back to my father.”

Then Raguel arose and gave Sarah his wife to him, and half of his belongings in servants, cattle, and silver. Then he blessed them and sent them on their way, saying, “May the God of heaven prosper you, my children, before the day I die.” To his daughter he said, “Honor your husband’s mother and father, for they are now your parents. Let me hear a good report of you,” and he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, “My beloved brother, may the Lord of heaven bring you back and grant me to see your children from my daughter Sarah, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Behold, I am entrusting my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her.” With this, Tobias went on his way blessing God that He had prospered his journey. Then he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He traveled until they approached Nineveh. Here Raphael said to Tobias, “My brother, are you not aware of how you left your father? Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house. Take the gall of the fish in your hand.” So they proceeded, and the dog followed behind them.

Meanwhile Anna sat gazing upon the road for her boy. She perceived that he was coming and said to the father, “Behold, your son is coming, and the man traveling with him!”

Raphael said, “I know that the eyes of your father will open. Rub the gall on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you.”

Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, “I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!” So they both wept. Then Tobit came out of the door. He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, “Father, take courage!” Then as his eyes stung, he rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, “Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son.” His son went in rejoicing and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit rejoiced and blessed God as he went to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh. But those who saw him as he walked along were amazed that he could see. Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. Then as Tobit drew near to meet Sarah, his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, “May you be in good health, my daughter! Blessed is God who brought you to us, and blessed are your father and your mother.”

So there was rejoicing among all his brethren in Nineveh. Even Ahikar and his nephew Nadab came, for the wedding feast for Tobias was kept with gladness for seven days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Tobit 12:1-14:15

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit summoned his son Tobias and said to him, “My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you, and we must add to them.” He replied to him, “My father, it is no harm for me to give him half of what I brought. For he brought me safely to you, healed my wife, and brought me the silver. Likewise he healed you.” The elderly man replied, “He more than earned it.” So he called the angel and said to him, “Take half of everything you brought.”

Then Raphael secretly called the two of them, and said to them, “Bless God and give Him thanks. Ascribe greatness to Him and give thanks in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt His name. Make known the words of God’s works honorably and do not delay to give thanks to Him. It is noble to keep hidden the secret of a king, but glorious to unveil the works of God. Do good, and evil will not find you. Prayer is good with fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A few prayers with righteousness are better than many with wrongdoing. It is better to do almsgiving than to lay up gold. For almsgiving rescues one from death, and it will wash away every sin. Those who do almsgiving and are righteous will be full of life. But those who sin are enemies of their own life.

“I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I did say that it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayer before the Holy One. When you also buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. Then too, when you did not hesitate to stand up and leave your dinner so as to depart and care for the dead, your doing what is good did not escape me; but I was with you. Now God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who report the prayers of the saints and who enter before the glory of the Holy One.”

The two of them were troubled and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid, for peace shall be with you. But bless God forever. For I did not come of my own good will, but rather by the will of our God. Therefore bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you I did not eat or drink; but you were seeing a vision. Now give thanks to God, because I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that was accomplished.”

Then they stood up, but no longer saw him. They acknowledged the great and wondrous works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit with exceeding joy wrote a prayer, saying:

“Blessed is God

Who lives unto the ages,

And blessed is His kingdom,

For He scourges, and is merciful;

He brings down into Hades,

And leads up.

There is no one who will escape His hand.

Give thanks to Him before the nations,

O children of Israel,

For He scattered us among them.

Make known His greatness there;

Exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

For He is our Lord and God;

He is our Father unto all the ages.

He will scourge us for our wrongdoings,

But He will again have mercy

And gather us from all the nations,

Wherever you were dispersed among them.

If you return to Him with all your heart

And with all your soul,

To do the truth before Him,

Then He will turn to you

And not hide His presence from you.

Behold for yourself what He will do for you,

And give thanks to Him fully with the organ of speech.

Bless the Lord of righteousness,

And exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity, I give thanks to Him,

And make known His might and majesty to a nation of sinners.

Be converted, you sinners,

And do righteousness before Him.

Who knows if He will desire you

And have mercy on you?

I exalt my God,

And my soul exalts the King of heaven

And will rejoice exceedingly in His majesty.

Let all speak of His majesty

And give thanks to Him in Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,

He will scourge you for the deeds of your sons,

But He will again show mercy to the sons of the righteous.

Give thanks to the Lord with goodness

And bless the King of the ages,

That His tabernacle may be restored again to you in joy.

May He rejoice in you, the captives,

And may He love those who are distressed among you

Unto all generations forever.

Many Gentiles will come from afar

To the name of the Lord God,

Bearing gifts in their hands

And offerings to the King of heaven.

Generations of generations will offer You joyful worship.

Cursed are all who hate You;

Blessed are all who love You forever.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for the children of the righteous,

For they will be gathered together

And will bless the Lord of the righteous.

Blessed are those who love You.

They will rejoice in Your peace.

Blessed are the many who grieved over all Your scourges,

For they will rejoice when they see all Your glory

And will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great King.

For Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald,

And her walls with precious stones,

And her towers and battlements with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be paved

With beryl, onyx, and stones from Ophir.

All her streets will proclaim, ‘Alleluia!’

And will give praise, saying,

‘Blessed is God, who exalted you unto all the ages.’”

Then Tobit ceased giving thanks.

He was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, and eight years later he regained it. Tobit did almsgiving, and continued to fear the Lord God, and gave thanks to Him. He grew very old, and called his son and his son’s sons, and said, “My son, take your sons. Behold, I have grown old, and I am departing from this life. Depart to Media, my son, for I trust all the words Jonah the prophet spoke concerning Nineveh, that it will be overthrown. But in Media there will be more peace for a time. For our brethren in the land will be dispersed in the earth from the good land. Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the house of God therein will be burned up. It shall be desolate for a time.

“But God will again have mercy on them, and He will return them to the land. They will build the house, but not as it was before, until the times of the age are fulfilled. After this, they will return from the captivity and build Jerusalem honorably. The house of God within her will be built as a glorious building for every generation forever, as the prophets said concerning her. All the Gentiles shall return to truly fear the Lord God. They shall bury their idols in the earth, and all the Gentiles will bless the Lord. His people will offer thanks to God, and the Lord will exalt His people. All who love the Lord God in truth and righteousness will rejoice. They will show mercy to our brethren.

“So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since what the prophet Jonah said will doubtless come to pass. But keep the law and the ordinances. Be merciful and righteous, that it may be well with you. Bury me decently and your mother with me, but lodge no longer in Nineveh. My son, observe what Aman did to Ahikar who reared him, how he led him from light into darkness, and how greatly he repaid him. Indeed Ahikar was saved, but as for that man, he was repaid with retribution and descended into the darkness. Manasseh did almsgiving and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap and perished. Now then, my children, observe what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers us.”

After he said these things, his soul departed as he lay on his bed. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and Tobias buried him gloriously. When Anna died, he buried her with his father. Then Tobias departed with his wife and his children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. He grew old honorably and buried the parents of his wife most respectfully. They inherited their estate and that of Tobit his father.

Tobias died at Ecbatana of Media when he was one hundred and twenty-seven years old. Before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, taken by Nebuchadnezzar and Ahasuerus. Thus before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

## The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:1-17

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

A wise son makes his father glad,

But a son without discernment is a grief to his mother.

Treasures do not benefit lawless men,

But righteousness delivers from death.

The Lord will not let the soul of the righteous man starve,

But He overthrows the life of the ungodly.

Poverty humbles a man,

But the hands of courageous men enrich others.

A son who is instructed will be wise,

And he will use a man without discernment as a servant.

A son with understanding is kept safe from the heat,

But a lawless son is blasted by the wind at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man,

But untimely grief will cover the mouth of the ungodly.

The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

But the name of an ungodly man is extinguished.

The wise man in heart will receive the commandments,

But the man unguarded in speech will be overthrown in his perverseness.

He who walks in sincerity walks confidently,

But he who perverts his ways will be known.

He who winks his eyes deceitfully gathers grief for men,

But he who reproves boldly is a peacemaker.

A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man,

But the mouth of an ungodly man will hide destruction.

Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all who are not lovers of strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from his lips

Beats a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will hide perception,

But the mouth of a rash man approaches destruction.

The acquisition of riches is a fortified city,

But poverty is the destruction of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,

But the fruits of the ungodly produce sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 48:17-49:4

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

Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: “I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me.”

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, “The Lord delivered His servant Jacob.” If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. “There is no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

“Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time,” says the Lord. “He called My name from My mother’s womb. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow and covered Me in His quiver. He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 38:1b-36

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

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying:

“Who is this who hides counsel from Me,

And holds words in his heart

And thinks to conceal them from Me?

Gird your waist like a man;

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know.

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened,

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the stars were made

And all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?

“I shut up the sea with doors

When it burst forth and issued from the womb.

I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in mist.

I fixed My limit for it and set bars and doors.

I said, ‘This far you may come, but no further,

And here your waves must stop.’

“Did I order the morning light in your time,

And did the morning star see its appointed place,

To lay hold of the ends of the earth

And to shake the ungodly out of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground and form a living creature,

And set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

Have you removed light from the ungodly

And crushed the arm of the arrogant?

“Have you come upon the fountain of the sea

And walked in the tracks of the deep?

Do the gates of death open to you for fear,

And did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven?

Tell Me now, what is the extent of it?

“In what kind of land does the light dwell,

And what kind is the place of darkness?

If you would bring Me to their boundaries,

And also if you understand their paths,

Then I know you were born at that time,

And the number of your years is great.

“Have you come upon the storehouses of snow?

Have you seen the storehouses of hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of your enemies,

For the day of wars and battles?

From where does the frost proceed?

From where does the south wind scatter over the earth?

“Who prepared a course for the violent rain

Or a path for the thunders?

Who causes it to rain on a land where there is no man,

Or an uninhabited wilderness, where there is not a man in it,

To satisfy the untrodden and uninhabited land

And cause it to spring forth a crop of tender grass?

Who is the rain’s father,

And who has begotten the drops of dew?

From whose womb comes the ice,

And who has given birth to the frost in heaven,

Which descends like flowing water?

Who made firm the face of the abyss?

“Do you understand the band of the Pleiades,

And have you opened the fence of Orion?

Will you open up Mazzaroth in its season,

And the evening star with his rays?

Will you guide them?

Do you know the movements of heaven

Or the events which take place together under heaven?

“Will you call a cloud with your voice,

And will it obey you with a violent shower of much rain?

Can you send out lightnings, and they shall go?

They shall say to you, ‘What do you want?’

Who has given to women wisdom in weaving

Or knowledge of embroidery?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:18-32

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

Instruction guards righteous ways of life,

But instruction incapable of criticism goes astray.

Righteous lips cover hatred,

But those who bring forth abuse are very lacking in discernment.

You will not escape sin by a multitude of words,

But you of discreet lips will be forbearing.

The tongue of a righteous man is silver tried in the fire,

But the heart of an ungodly man shall fail.

The lips of righteous men understand lofty things,

But men without discernment die in want.

The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man;

It enriches him, and grief of heart will not be added to it.

A man without discernment does evil things with laughter,

But wisdom gives birth to discernment in a man.

The ungodly man is carried about in destruction,

But the desire of the righteous man is acceptable.

The ungodly man is destroyed by the passing storm,

But the righteous man turns aside and shall be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is a lawless woman to the men who use her.

The fear of the Lord increases days,

But the years of the ungodly will be shortened.

Gladness continues for the righteous,

But the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is the stronghold of a holy man,

But destruction is for those who work evil.

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 49:6b-10

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

\*[Indeed He says, ‘It is a great thing for You to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the dispersion of Israel.]\* Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: “Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord’s sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, ‘Go forth,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Reveal yourselves.’ They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener, found in Ottawa and Southern United States.

##### Job 38:37-39:30

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

Who can number the clouds by wisdom,

And who bowed heaven down to earth?

For it is spread like a cloud of dust,

And I have joined it together as one hewn stone to another.

“Will you hunt prey for the lions

Or satisfy the lives of the serpents?

They fear in their dens,

And live in the forests, and lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?

For its young ones wander

And cry to the Lord in search of food.

“Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young,

And do you mark when the deer gives birth?

Do you number the full months of childbearing,

And have you relieved their pangs?

Have you reared their young without fear,

And have you sent away their pangs?

Their young ones will break forth;

They will be multiplied with offspring;

They depart and do not return.

Who set the wild donkey free?

Who loosed his bonds?

I made the wilderness his dwelling

And the salt lands his house.

He scorns the great multitude of the city;

He does not heed the blame of the tax collector.

He will survey the mountains as his pasture,

And he seeks out every green thing.

Will the wild ox be willing to serve you?

Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind his yoke with ropes,

Or will he plow furrows for you in the field?

Do you trust him because his strength is great?

Or will you commit your works to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your seed

And gather it to your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork’s?

For the falcon leaves her eggs on the ground

And warms them in the dust.

She has forgotten that a foot will scatter them,

Or that wild animals will trample them.

She hardens herself against her young ones

As though they were not hers.

She labors in vain without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom

And did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high,

She scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with a mane?

Have you put on him a suit of armor

And made his breast glorious with courage?

He paws exultingly in the valley

And goes forth with strength into the plain.

He mocks at battle when he sees it,

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against him,

And his rage would destroy the earth.

He will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

For at the blast of the trumpet he says, ‘Good! Well done!’

He smells the battle from afar with its leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk remain steady by your understanding,

And spread its rigid wings looking toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command,

And the vulture remain sitting over its nest

On the crag of a hidden rock?

From there it spies out the prey;

Its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones roll themselves in blood;

And where the slain are, immediately they are found.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Sirach 5:1-15

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not set your heart on your possessions,

And do not say, “I am independent.”

Do not follow yourself and your strength

So as to walk in the desires of your heart;

And do not say, “Who will be lord over me?”

For the Lord will surely punish you.

Do not say, “I sinned, so what happened to me?”

For the Lord is patient.

Do not be so confident of atonement

That you add sin to sin;

And do not say, “His compassion is great;

He will atone for the multitude of my sins,”

For both mercy and wrath come from Him;

And His anger rests on sinners.

Do not delay to turn to the Lord,

And do not put it off from day to day;

For suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come forth,

And in the day of vengeance, you will perish.

Do not set your heart on dishonest wealth,

For it will profit you nothing in the day of distress.

Do not winnow with every wind

And do not follow every road;

For a double-tongued sinner is of such a kind.

Be established in your understanding

And let your word be consistent.

Be quick to listen

And give your answer with patience.

If you have understanding, answer your neighbor,

But if not, let your hand be over your mouth.

There is glory and dishonor in speech,

And a man’s tongue may cause him to fall.

Do not be called a slanderer,

And do not lie in ambush with your tongue;

For shame awaits a thief,

And a grievous condemnation will come upon

A double-tongued man.

In a great or in a small matter, do not go wrong.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 10:32-11:11

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

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

The lips of righteous men distill grace,

But the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is acceptable to Him.

Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor,

But the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,

But the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy.

Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths,

But ungodliness embraces wrongdoing.

The righteousness of upright men delivers them,

But lawless men are taken to their destruction.

When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish,

But the boast of the ungodly perishes.

A righteous man escapes from a snare,

But the ungodly man is handed over in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly,

But the perception of the righteous is prosperous.

A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous,

But it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.

A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt,

But a man of discernment keeps quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 58:1-11a

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

“Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’ Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast,” says the Lord; “rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, ‘Behold, I am here.’ If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. Your bones shall be enriched, and you shall be like a well-watered garden and like a spring of water that does not fail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 40:1-41:26

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

Moreover the Lord God answered Job and said:

“Will anyone pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

He who rebukes God will answer for it.”

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“Why am I still judged and admonished,

Even if I rebuke the Lord, hear such things, and am nothing?

But what answer will I give to these things?

I will put my hand over my mouth.

I have spoken once.

I will not do so a second time.”

The Lord yet answered Job out of the cloud and said:

“No rather, gird up your waist like a man,

For I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Do you not reject My judgment?

Do you think I have dealt with you in any other way

Than might appear to you to be righteous?

Have you an arm like the Lord’s?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now majesty and power,

And clothe yourself with glory and honor.

Send forth messengers with wrath

And humble every insolent man.

Extinguish the arrogant man

And consume at once the ungodly.

Hide them together in the earth

And fill their faces with disgrace.

Then I will also admit

That your own right hand can save you.

“But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

Behold now, his strength is in his loins,

And his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;

His nerves are tightly knit.

His ribs are like ribs of bronze,

And his backbone like bars of iron.

This is the ruler of the Lord’s creation,

Made to be mocked at by His angels.

When he goes up to a rough mountain,

He causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

1He lies under trees of every kind,

Alongside the papyrus, and reed, and bulrush.

The great trees shade him with their branches;

So do the branches of the willow.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

He is confident, though the Jordan beats against his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes,

Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Will you catch the serpent with a hook

And put a halter about his nose?

Or will you fasten a ring in his nose

Or pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he speak to you in prayer,

Softly with the voice of a suppliant?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird,

Or will you cage him as a sparrow for a child?

Do the nations feed upon him?

Will they apportion him among the nations of the Phoenicians?

All the ships come together would not be able

To bear the mere skin of his tail,

Or carry his head with fishing vessels.

Once you lay your hand on him,

Remembering the battle waged by his mouth,

Let it not be done again.

“Have you not seen him?

Have you not wondered at what has been said of him?

Do you not fear because I am prepared?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me and endure,

Since everything under heaven is Mine?

“I will not be silent because of him,

Though because of his power, one shall pity his antagonist.

Who will remove his outer coat?

Who may enter within the fold of his breastplate?

Who will open the doors of his face,

With his terrible teeth all around?

His entrails are as brazen plates,

And the texture of his skin as a symrite stone.

One part clings to another

So no air comes between them.

A man will be joined to his brother.

They stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light,

And his eyes are like the appearance of the morning star.

Out of his mouth go burning lights;

Sparks of fire shoot out.

Smoke goes out of his nostrils

As from a boiling pot with fire of coals.

His breath kindles coals,

And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Strength dwells in his neck,

And destruction runs before him.

The muscles of his body are joined together.

They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone,

And it stands like an unyielding anvil.

When he turns, he is a terror

To the four-footed wild animals which leap upon the earth.

Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail;

Nor does spear or javelin.

He regards iron as straw,

And bronze as rotten wood.

The arrow cannot wound him;

The sling-stone becomes like grass to him.

Hammers are regarded as straw,

And he laughs at the threat of javelins.

His bed is like sharp skewers,

And all the gold of the sea under him

Is like a great amount of clay.

He makes the deep boil like a brazen pot,

And he regards the sea like a pot of ointment.

The lowest part of the deep is as a captive.

He reckons the deep as his walking range.

On earth there is nothing like him,

Who was made to be mocked at by My angels.

He beholds every high thing;

He is king over all that are in the waters.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

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

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Proverbs 11:11-26

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

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves,

But there is salvation in much counsel.

A wicked man does evil whenever he meets a righteous man,

And he hates the sound of stability.

A thankful woman raises up glory to her husband,

But a throne of dishonor is a woman who hates righteousness.

Lazy men are in need of wealth,

But courageous men support themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his soul,

But an unmerciful man utterly destroys his body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous works,

But the seed of the righteous is a reward of truth.

A righteous son is begotten unto life,

But the persecution of an ungodly man is unto death.

Perverse ways are an abomination to the Lord,

But all who are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him.

He who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished,

But he who sows righteousness will receive a faithful reward.

Like a ring in the nose of a wild swine,

So is beauty to an evil-minded woman.

Every desire of the righteous is good,

But the hope of the ungodly is destruction.

There are those who sow their own things and produce more things,

And there are those who gather but have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

But an angry man is not graceful.

May the one who hoards grain leave it to the nations,

But may blessing be upon the head of the one who shares it.

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 65:8-16a

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

Thus says the Lord: “As the grape shall be found in a cluster, and they shall say, ‘Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing from the Lord in it,’ so shall I do for the sake of him who serves Me. For his sake I will not destroy them all. I will bring forth the seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah, and they shall inherit My holy mountain. My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there. There shall be in the forest a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for the resting place of herds for My people who sought Me. But you are those who forsook Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill a drink-offering to Fortune. I will deliver you to the sword, and all of you shall fall in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed.”

Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:1-6

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

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know You can do all things,

And nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he who hides counsel from You?

Who keeps back his words

And thinks to hide them from You?

Who will tell me what I knew not,

Things too great and wonderful, which I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

I will ask You, and please teach Me.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I depreciate myself, and I waste away.

I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### 4 Kings 6:8-7:20 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I shall encamp in this specific place.” Then Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, saying, “Be careful not to pass this place, for the Syrians are hidden there.” In response, the king of Israel sent someone to this place which Elisha warned about, and thereby kept careful watch over the Syrians on more than two occasions. As a result, the king of Syria became troubled as to what was happening. He called his officers and said to them, “Will you not tell me who gives advance warning of our movements to the king of Israel?” And one of his officers said, “No one, O lord my king. It is Elisha the prophet in Israel that tells the words you speak in your bedroom to the king of Israel.” So he said, “Go, see where this man is, and I will send and kidnap him.”

They sent word to him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” So he sent horses and chariots and a great army that arrived at night to surround the city. When Elisha’s servant arose early and went out, the army was there, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “O master, what shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are greater in number than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see.” And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he was now able to see, and he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then the Syrians marched toward him, and Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike these people with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. So Elisha said to them, “This is not the city nor is this the way to it. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you seek.” But he led them away to Samaria. So it came to be when they arrived in Samaria, Elisha said, “Lord, open their eyes and let them see.” Thus the Lord completely restored their ability to see. And behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “O father, shall I not strike to kill them?” But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you took captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their lord.” Then he prepared a great feast for them, and after they ate and drank, he dismissed them and they departed to their lord. So lightly armed raiding parties of Syrians no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it came to pass that after this, the son of Hadad king of Syria gathered all the troops of his army and went up and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed they besieged it even to the point where the value placed on the head of a donkey was fifty shekels of silver, and two quarts of dove droppings cost five shekels of silver. As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Save me, my lord, O king!” And he said, “If the Lord does not save you from the threshing floor or from the winepress, how can I save you?” Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give us your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I told her, ‘Give me your son so that we may eat him,’ but she hid her son.”

Now when the king heard the woman’s words, he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw that underneath his clothes he wore sackcloth on his body. Then he said, “God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha remains on him today.”

Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him, when the king sent a man ahead of him. But before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Do you see that this son of a murderer was sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and keep him on the outside of the door. Is that not the sound of his master’s feet behind him?” While yet talking with them, behold the messenger came down towards him; and the king said, “Listen! This evil is of the Lord, so why should I remain patient in the Lord?”

Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: ‘About this time tomorrow, at the gate of Samaria a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and for a shekel, two measures of barley.’ ” So the officer on whose hand the king relied retorted to Elisha and said, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven will make a downpour of rain, this event shall not happen.” And Elisha said, “Behold, you shall see this with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

Now at the entrance of the gate there were four leprous men. And one of them said to his neighbor, “Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, ‘Let us go into the city,’ and there is famine in the city, we will die there. And if we sit here in this place, then we will die. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall die.” So they rose in the darkness to head to the army camp of the Syrians. They entered the outskirts of the army camp and no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, the noises of a very great army. For the Lord made the army of Syria say to one another, “Look, the king of Israel hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” So they arose in the darkness and quietly fled for their lives, leaving their tents, their horses, and their donkeys at the campsite.

And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away from it silver and gold and clothing. Then they left and came back to enter another tent to take from there and to hide the spoils. And one said to the others, “This is not right. This day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent and wait until the light of morning, we will find wickedness in the city. Now come here! Let us enter the city and deliver this good news to the house of the king.” So they went and cried out with a loud voice toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, “We entered the army camp of Syria and behold, no one was there, not a man nor a human voice. The only things there were the tied-up horses and donkeys, and their tents, which they left intact.”

Then the gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the house of the king inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “Now I will inform you as to what the Syrians are doing. They know we are hungry. Therefore they went out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive and capture the city.’ ”

Then one of his servants answered and said, “Indeed! Let them now take five of the remaining horses, of all that remain of the multitude of Israel, and send them there to see.” Therefore they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent them after the king of Syria, saying, “Go and see.” And they went after them even to the Jordan. Indeed all along the way, the road was full of garments and vessels which the Syrians themselves cast away in the panic. So the messengers returned and brought word to the king. Then the people went out and plundered the army camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, true to the word of the Lord.

Now the king had appointed the officer, the one on whose hand the king relied, to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God said who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha said to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.” Then the officer had answered Elisha with this retort, “Look, even if the Lord in heaven should make a downpour of rain, this sort of thing would never happen.” Then Elisha had answered, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” And so it was in this way; for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

### The Last Friday of Great Lent

#### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

##### Genesis 49:33-50:26

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

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Now Joseph fell on his father’s face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.’ ” Then Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians.” Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph’s brothers saw their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him.” So they came to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ ” Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

So Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households.” Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart.

So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, “I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Proverbs 11:26-12:24

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

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

He who trusts in riches, this man will fall,

But he who helps the righteous, this man will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

And a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment.

A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness,

But the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time.

If the righteous man is scarcely saved,

Then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

But he who hates correction is without discernment.

He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better,

But a lawless man will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by lawlessness,

But the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are judgments,

But the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are deceitful,

But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

If he does not turn, an ungodly man is destroyed,

But the houses of the righteous remain.

The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man,

But the slothful of heart are treated with contempt.

It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself

Than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

But the affections of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread,

But those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time

Shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

But the roots of the godly are in strongholds.

By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares,

But a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will show mercy,

But he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things,

And the recompense of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes,

But a wise man hearkens to counsels.

A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath,

But an astute man hides his own dishonor.

A righteous man declares his honesty openly,

But the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful.

There are those who wound with a sword as they speak,

But the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

But a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue.

There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things,

But those who counsel peace shall be glad.

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Isaias 66:10-24

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

“Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders and comforted on knees. Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord’s hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient.

For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger and His renunciation with a flame of fire. For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. “Those who purify and cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time,” says the Lord; “and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades, to the holy city of Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites,” says the Lord. “For just as the new heaven and the new earth which I make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your seed and your name remain. It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem,” says the Lord. “They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

##### Job 42:7-17

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

So it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “You have sinned, you and your two friends, for you have not spoken before Me what is true, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you. For I will only accept him, but for his sake, I would have destroyed you; because you have not spoken what is true regarding my servant Job.” So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and He redeemed their sin for Job’s sake.

Then the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends, and He forgave their sin. But the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then all his brothers and all his sisters heard about everything that happened to him, and they came to him. So did all who knew him from the first. They ate food and drank with him and comforted him; and they wondered at all the Lord brought upon him. Each one gave him a lamb and four drachms’ weight of uncoined gold.

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first, Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia’s Horn. In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.