The Apostle Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Apostle Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# Paschaltide

## The Bright Resurrection of Christ, The Pascha of the Lord

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:23-50

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

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ’s, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, “He put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when he says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived! “Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised?” and, “With what kind of body do they return?” You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own. Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:15-22

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

Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:22-28

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

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*‘I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’*

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

### Monday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

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

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

But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that anything be written to you. You know well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. When they are saying, “Peace and safety,” then a sudden destruction will come upon them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness to allow the day to overtake you like a thief. You are all children of light, and children of the day. We do not belong to the night, or to the darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be clear minded. Those who sleep, sleep in the night, and those who are drunk are drunk in the night. But let us, since we belong to the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, which is what you [already] do.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:11-25

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

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord’s sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

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

\*episcopos, bishop

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 3:1-20

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

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

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

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

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you.

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

### Tuesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:6-21

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

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam’s disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. And so, as through one sin all men were condemned; likewise through one act of righteousness all men were justified to life. Indeed, just as through the one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:34-43

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

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

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

### Wednesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

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

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal immortality, then what is written will come true, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

*Death, where is your sting?*

*Hades, where is your victory?*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:10-21

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

About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:1-13

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

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus.

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

### Thursday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 1:15-2:3

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

For this same reason, I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation to bring you to full knowledge of him. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you experience the hope of his calling and know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. May you also experience the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to his power and might which he accomplished in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places. Yes, Christ now sits above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God put all things in subjection under his feet and granted him to be head over all things for the sake of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:8-15

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

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,*

*and see good days,*

*should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.*

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

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

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

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

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

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-22

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

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

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

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

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

### Friday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 13:10-21

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

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

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:25-2:10

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

*But the word of the Lord endures forever.*

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

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,*

*has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God’s people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:34-42

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

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ Therefore, he also says in another psalm, ‘You will not allow your holy one to see decay.’ Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*‘Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.’*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

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

### Saturday of the First Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 1:12-23

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

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-7

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Thomas Sunday

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:20-32

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

But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 17:16-34

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

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Others suggested, “He seems to be advocating foreign deities,” because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] ‘the resurrection’.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” Now, all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being!’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

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

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

### Monday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-4

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:1-7

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:1-4

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

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

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

### Tuesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:7-10

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

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I may be blessed by the will of God to come to you.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 1:6-10

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

If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:5-7

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

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

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

### Wednesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:11-13

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

For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift with the purpose that you may be established; that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:1-6

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:8-12

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

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

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

### Thursday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:16-17

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

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For in the Gospel God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:7-10

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:13-18

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

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

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

### Friday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:19-21a

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

because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:11-14

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

But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:19-21

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

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

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done.

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

### Saturday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 2:8-15

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

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God’s word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:21-25

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

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:31-35

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

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!” And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

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

## The Third Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:19-3:9

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

And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and member’s of God’s household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

For this reason, I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles! Surely, you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given me toward you; how by revelation, the mystery was made known to me, as I wrote before in a few words. When you read them, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to anyone as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit. I mean that the Gentiles are [now] fellow-heirs and fellow-members of the body, yes, fellow-partakers of God’s promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News.

Of this Good News, I was made a servant, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given me according to the working of his power. This grace was given to me, the very least of all saints, so that I might preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable treasures of Christ and make everyone see the dispensation of the mystery which had been hidden in God for so long, in him who created all things <through Jesus Christ>.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:10-20

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

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-12

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

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

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

### Monday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:4-7

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

Or do you despise the riches of God’s goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:15-17

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:23-27a

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

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

*‘Why do the nations rage,*

*and the peoples plot a vain thing?*

*The kings of the earth take a stand,*

*and the rulers take council together,*

*against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.

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

### Tuesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:8-13

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

However, to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but unrighteousness, there will be retribution and intense wrath, oppression and anguish. Trouble and distress will come to everyone who does evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

But glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, because there is no partiality with God. Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:18-23

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

Children, these are the end times! As you have heard, the Antichrist is coming and even now many antichrists have arisen. This is how we know that it is the final hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us! If they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But [in fact] they left, so that it might be revealed that none of them belonged to us! You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father [but whoever confesses the Son also has the Father].

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:27-31

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

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

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

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

### Wednesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:14-16

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

(Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:21-25

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

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 4:32-35

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

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and [one] soul. Not one of them claimed that anything he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. With great power, the apostles gave their witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. No one among them lacked anything because those who owned lands or houses sold them, and they brought the proceeds what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles. Then, distribution was made to each, according to everyone’s need.

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

### Thursday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:17-20

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

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:26-3:1

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

I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God’s children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:1-6

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

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

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried.

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

### Friday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 2:25-29

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

Indeed, circumcision gains something if you are a doer of the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. And so, if an uncircumcised man keeps the ordinances of the law, will not his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision? Will not the uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfills the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law? For one is not a Jew by being so outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh. Instead, someone is a Jew by being one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter. For their praise is not from men, but from God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:5-11

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

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

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

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

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

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

### Saturday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 3:5-11

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

He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness,” know, therefore, that those who are of faith are likewise Abraham’s children. As foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, the Scripture announced the future Good News to Abraham by saying, “In you all the nations will be blessed.” And so, those of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham. But those who depend on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written:

*“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.”*

Now, it is obvious that no one is justified by the law before God, because “The righteous will live by faith.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:12-20

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

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon’s porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

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

## The Fourth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 3:1-17

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

If you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God! Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-24

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

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:37-43

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

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

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

### Monday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:4-8

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

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:8b-12

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

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should not be like Cain who was of the evilone and who killed his brother [Abel]. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, while his brother’s works were righteous.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:21-25

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

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together which his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One [officer] came forward and told them, “Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people.”

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

### Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:19-21

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

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:13-17

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

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person?

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:27-29

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

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem

with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

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

### Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 2:13-18

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

But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:8-13

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

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-6

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

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

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

### Thursday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:22-26

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

It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God’s patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:18-24a

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

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:30-33

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

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God has exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior in order to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins. We are his witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Hearing this, they were enraged and determined to kill them.

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

### Friday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:27-31

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

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:1-6a

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

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater is than the one who is in the world. These people are of the world. Therefore, they speak according to [the spirit of] the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us.Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we can discern the

spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:34-36

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

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing.

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

### Saturday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of his glory!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-5:1a

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:36-43

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

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not to delay in coming to help us!” So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

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

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

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

As for other matters, brethren, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it is with you. Pray also that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, he will establish you and guard you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you accomplish and will continue to accomplish the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the endurance of Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:7-13

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

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

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:8-23

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

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother’s womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, “Stand up on your feet!” And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” They called Barnabas “Jupiter,” and Paul “Mercury,” because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, “Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself withoutwitness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stoodaround him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

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

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

### Monday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:4-9

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

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

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

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 3:21-24

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

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:37-41

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

It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands.

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

### Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:9b-12a

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

For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they areuncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to t em. He is the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:11-17a

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

Beloved, if God loved us inthis way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:40b-43

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

As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*‘Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,*

*the star of your god Rephan,*

*the figures which you made to worship.*

*I will carry you awayi beyond Babylon.’*

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

### Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 5:20-6:4

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

Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:15-19

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:44-50

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

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*‘Heaven is my throne,*

*and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord;*

*‘or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?’*

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

### Thursday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:5-11

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

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:18-5:1

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

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We lovehim, because he first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we havereceived from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 7:51-54

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

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

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

### Friday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 6:17-22

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:1-6

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

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep hiscommandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the onewho believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:1b-4

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

In that day, a great persecution arose against the Church which was in Jerusalem. The disciples were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and greatly lamented over him. In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word.

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

### Saturday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:1-13

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

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,*

*but you prepared a body for me;*

*You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come*

*(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)*

*to do your will, O God.’*

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them” (those which are offered according to the law), and then he said, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He takes away the first so that he may establish the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:11-21

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

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 23:6b-11

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

“Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

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

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

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

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

## The Sixth Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:19-38a

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

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses’ law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of God and profanated the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified, and offended the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine, says the Lord”, “I will repay.” And also, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! But remember the early days when you had just been enlightened, how you endured a great struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were exposed to insults and oppressions; and at other times you stood with those who were treated in such a way. Indeed, you had compassion for me in my chains and joyfully accepted the seizure of your property, knowing that you have a better and enduring property in the heavens. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward. Indeed, you need endurance in order to receive the promise after having done the will of God:

*In a very little while,*

*he who comes will come and will not wait.*

*But the righteous will live by faith.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 4:6-14a

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

For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:1-20

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

But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest. He asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, [giving permission] that if he found anyone who belonged to ‘the Way’, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now, a certain disciple named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

Ananias answered, “Behold, it is me, Lord!”

The Lord said to him, “Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for someone named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard about this man from many [friends], how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. Here, he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those who call upon your Name!”

But the Lord said to him, “Be on your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my Name before nations and kings, and to the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for my Name’s sake.”

Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me, so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!” At once, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized, and after taking some food, he was strengthened. After staying for several days with the disciples who were at Damascus, Saul immediately went in the synagogues to proclaim that Christ is the Son of God.

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

### Monday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:2-5

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

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh; so that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:9-13

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

If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:23-31

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

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

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

### Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:9-11

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

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:9-12

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

If we accept human testimony, God’s testimony is greater because this is God’s testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God’s Son does not have {the} life.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:27-29

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

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

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

### Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 7:1-8

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

Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a person for as long as that person lives? Hence, the woman who has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. Thereforce, if she is joined to another man while her husband lives, she would be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law and she is no adulteress even though she is now joined to another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ in order to be joined to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit to God. While we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were through the law worked in our members to produce fruit unto death. But now, we have been released from the {obligations of the} law, having died to what was binding us, so that we serve in ‘newness of the spirit’, and not in ‘oldness of the letter’.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? May it never be! However, I would not have recognizesin, except through the law. Indeed, I would not have known coveting, unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.But sin, finding an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting! For apart from the law, sin is dead.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:13-18

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

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal lifand continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 19:6b-10

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

And they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

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

## The Feast of the Ascension

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 3:13-16

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

Those who have served well earn for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I write to you these things, hoping to come to you shortly. If I am delayed, I want you to know how the people should behave in the house of

God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without a doubt, great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was revealed in the flesh,*

*vindicated in the spirit,*

*seen by angels,*

*preached among the nations,*

*believed on in the world,*

*and received up in glory.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

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

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God’s will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:1-14

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

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God’s Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.”

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

Jesus told them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven.”

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

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

### Friday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

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

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and hold firm to the traditions as I delivered them to you. But I desire you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered dishonors his head. But every woman praying or prophesying with her head unveiled dishonors her head, and it is as if she were shaved. Indeed, if a woman does not wear a head covering, she should be shaved; and if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, then let her be covered. Certainly, a man should not have his head covered, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. Man is not from woman, but woman from man; for man was not created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this cause, a woman should have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Nevertheless, in the Lord, a woman is not independent from the man or a man independent from the woman. For as woman came from man, so a man also comes [to life] through a woman; but all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it appropriate that a woman pray to God unveiled? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, because her hair is given to her as a covering. But if anyone wishes to dispute these things, we have no other custom, and neither do God’s Churches.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:14-21

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 22:6-10

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

It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’

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

### Saturday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 4:8-16

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

Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 5:5-12

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

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:10-21

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

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

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

## The Seventh Sunday of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 15:57-16:8

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

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Now, concerning the collection for the saints, do as I instructed the Churches of Galatia. On the first day of the week, each one of you should put aside and reserve according to God’s blessing, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, I will send whoever you approve with letters to carry your gracious gift to Jerusalem. If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will accompany me. But I will come to you when I have passed through Macedonia, since I have to go through Macedonia. I may also stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my journey. For I do not wish to see you just in passing, but I hope to stay with you for a while, if the Lord permits. But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:2c-12

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

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:1-16

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

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we arrived in Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

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

### Monday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:12-17

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

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

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:19-23

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

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

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

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

### Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:22-27

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

We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John 8-13

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:20b-23

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

On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

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

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

### Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 8:28-39

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

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John 1-8

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:4-9

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

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!”

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

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

### Thursday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:5-11

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

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 3 John 10-14

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:7-12

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

When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

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

### Friday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:12-17

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

And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 22-25

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

Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:13-18

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

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.*

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

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:31b-14:4

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

I [will] show you a most excellent way.

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

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

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

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 1:15-26

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

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

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

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*‘Let his habitation be made desolate,*

*And let no one dwell in it;’*

and,

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

Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John and to the day that he was taken up from us, of these [men], one must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

So, they put forward two [candidates]: Joseph called Barsabbas who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

## The Feast of Pentecost

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 12:1-31a

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

Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were Gentiles, you were enticed and led away to those mute idols. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by God’s Spirit can says, “Jesus is accursed.” No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. Now, there are various kinds of gifts, but it is the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of works, but it is the same God who works all things in all. But to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. To one, the word of wisdom is given through the Spirit, and to another, the word of knowledge, [both] according to the same Spirit. To another faith [is given] by the same Spirit and to yet another gifts of healings, [both] by the same Spirit. To another it is given to work miracles and to another prophecy. Another receives the discerning of spirits, another different kinds of tongues and another [yet] the interpretation of tongues. But it is the one and same Spirit who works all of these, distributing to each one individually as he intends.

Just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body (though many,) form one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, both Jews and Greeks, slaves or free; and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not the hand, I am not part of the body,” it would still be part of the body. If the ear would say, “Because I am not the eye, I am not part of the body,” it would still be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? Or if the whole body were hearing, where would the smelling be? But now, God has set the members of the body, each one of them, just as he desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now, they are many members, but [still] one body. The eye cannot tell the hand, “I have no need of you,” or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” In fact, the members of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable! The members of the body which we think less honorable, we clothe with greater honor while our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, although our more presentable parts have no such need. But God put the body together, giving more abundant honor to the inferior part, so that there should be no division in the body. Instead, the members should have the same care for one another. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, and when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:20-3:1a

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

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us:eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God’s children!

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:1-21

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

Now, when the day of Pentecost came, they were all with one accord [gathered] in the same place. Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Divided tongues that seemed like fire appeared and one [tongue] rested on each of them. Then, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. At that time {of year}, devout Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd formed and people were bewildered because everyone heard the disciples speaking in one’s own language. They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Behold, are not all these who speak Galileans? How is it that we hear everyone [speak] in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages [concerning] the deeds of power of God!” They were all amazed and perplexed, saying one to another, “What does this mean?” Others, mockingly, said, “They are filled with new wine!”

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: “Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

*‘It will be in the last days, says God,*

*that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.*

*Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.*

*Your young men will see visions.*

*Your old men will dream dreams.*

*Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days,*

*I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy!*

*I will show wonders in the sky above,*

*and signs on the earth beneath;*

*blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.*

*The sun will be turned into darkness,*

*and the moon into blood,*

*before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.*

*And it will be that whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be*

*saved.’*

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

### The Office of Kneeling (or Worship) on the Eve of Monday after Pentecost

#### The Pauline Epistle of the First Kneeling

##### 1 Corinthians 12:28-13:12

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

God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle of the Second Kneeling

##### 1 Corinthians 13:13-14:17

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

But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church. Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

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

#### The Pauline Epistle of the Third Kneeling

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-40

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

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

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

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time;and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets’ control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

As is done in all the Churches of the saints, women should remain silent in the Churches, for it has not been permitted for them to speak as they are to be under authority, as the law also says. If they desire to learn about something, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is not fitting that a woman should speak in the Church. Do you think that it was from you that the word of God went out? Or did it come to you alone? If any man thinks himself to be a prophet or someone spiritual, let him recognize the things which I write to you: these are the commandment of the Lord. But the ignorant is truly ignorant! Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, but let all things be done decently and in order.

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