The Gospel Readings

of the

Coptic Rite

The Gospel Readings of the Coptic Rite

No ISBN for this edition.

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

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

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

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

Sundays 4

September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ 5

October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ 23

November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ 43

December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ 64

January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ 89

February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ 112

May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ 132

June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ 147

July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ 170

August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month) 195

# Sundays

## September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

### The First Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 29:5, 11

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord, you saints of His,

and confess at the remembrance of His holiness.

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;

the Lord became my helper.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:11-19

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

Amen, I tell you: among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer! Yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John [came]. If you are willing to accept it, this [John] is Elias who was to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call to their friends and say, ‘We played the flute for you and you did not dance. We mourned for you and you did not lament!’ As it is, John came neither eating nor drinking, and so they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and so they say, ‘Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But Wisdom is justified by her children.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 30:2, 19ab

A Psalm of David.

I have hoped in You, O Lord;

let me never be put to shame;

rescue me and deliver me in Your righteousness.

How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,

which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 21:23-27

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

When he had come into the temple, the chief priests and the presbyters of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, “By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you this authority?”

Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question and if you answer me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

They reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the crowd because everyone considers John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus: “We do not know.”

He also said to them, “Then neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 1:12-19a

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

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he has considered me faithful and has appointed me to [this] ministry, even though I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor and disrespectful. Nevertheless, I obtained mercy, because I did those things in ignorance and unbelief; and so the grace of our Lord overflowed [onto me along] with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first. This is how I obtained mercy, so that in me as ‘the first’, Jesus Christ might show all his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. Now, to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

I commit this instruction to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies made earlier which singled you out. By them, may you fight the good fight, keeping the faith and a good conscience.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:22-27

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 13:25-33a

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 John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’ Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 30:24ab, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,

for the Lord requires truth.

How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,

which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 7:28-35

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

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptizer; yet whoever is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he.”

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just since they had been baptized with John’s baptism. However, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose, not being baptized by him themselves.

But the Lord said, “to what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and who call one another, saying: ‘We played the pipes to you, and you did not dance! We mourned, and you did not weep!’ For John the Baptizer came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a glutton and a drunkard; a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet Wisdom is justified by all her children.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 7:11, 12a

A Psalm of David.

Righteous help comes to me from God,

Who saves the upright in heart.

God is a righteous judge, strong and patient.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:38-41

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

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 8:2ab, 5

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, our Lord,

how wonderful is Your Name in all the earth!

What is man that You remember him,

or the son of man that You visit him?

Alleluia.

##### Mark 1:35-39

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

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus arose, left the house, went out into a deserted place and prayed there. Simon and those with him followed Jesus. When they found him, they told him, “Everyone is looking for you!”

He replied, “Let us go somewhere else, into the next towns, so that I may preach there also, for this is why I came.” He went into their synagogues throughout all of Galilee, preaching and casting out demons. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Timothy 1:12-2:10

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

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to guard what I have committed to him until that Day.

Hold to the example of sound teachings which you have heard from me, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you.

As you know, all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my imprisonment. When he was in Rome, he searched hard for me and he found me! May the Lord grant him to find the Lord’s mercy in that Day, for he served [me] at Ephesus in many ways, as you know very well.

You, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. What you heard from me among many witnesses, entrust likewise to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

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.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 2:5-13

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

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:19-26

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.

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 20:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

The king will be glad in Your power, O Lord,

and greatly rejoice in Your salvation.

You have given him his heart’s desire,

and have not denied him the request of his lips.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 10:21-28

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

In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight.”

Turning to the disciples, he said, “All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who the Father is, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Turning to the disciples, Jesus said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but they did not see them; and to hear what you hear, but they did not hear them.”

Behold, an expert in the law stood up and tested him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 9:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

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

I will tell of all Your wonders.

I will be glad and rejoice in You;

I will sing to Your Name, O Most High.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 1:29-34

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

As soon as they left the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately, they told him about her. Jesus came, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them. At evening, when the sun had set, they brought him all who were sick or possessed by demons. The entire city was gathered at the door. He healed many who were afflicted with various diseases and cast out many demons. But he did not allow the demons to speak because they knew him, that He was Christ1. Glory be to God forever.

1“that He was Christ” is only found in the Coptic.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 9:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

And let those who know Your Name put their hope in You,

for You have never forsaken those who seek You, O Lord.

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion;

declare His ways among the nations.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 8:5-13

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

When Jesus came into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking and saying, “Lord, my servant lies in the house paralyzed, grievously tormented.” Jesus answered, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof! Only say the word and my servant shall be healed. For I am also a man under authority, having soldiers under my own authority. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and if I tell another, ‘Come,’ he comes. Or if I tell my servant, ‘Do this,’ he does it!”

When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed, “Amen, I tell you that I have never found so great a faith, not even in Israel! I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed.” And his servant was healed in that hour. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not stand by human wisdom but in the power of God. However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

*Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,*

*Which did not enter into the heart of man,*

*These God has prepared for those who love him.*

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God’s Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:13-21

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:22-31

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

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 17:45, 50

A Psalm of David.

The Lord lives! And my God is blessed;

and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Therefore I will confess You

among the nations, O Lord,

and I will sing praise to Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 19:1-10

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

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was [about] to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!” He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. But when the people saw it, they all grumbled, saying, “He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!”

Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have wrongfully obtained money from anyone, I restore four times as much!”

Then Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm Psalm 32:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

For the word of the Lord is true,

and all His works are faithful.

He loves mercy and justice;

the earth is full of the Lord’s mercy.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 9:18-26

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

While he told these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”

Jesus got up and followed him, as did his disciples. Behold, a woman who had had an issue of blood for twelve years came behind him and touched the fringe of his garment. [She did this because] she said within herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”

But Jesus, turning around and seeing her, said, “Daughter, rejoice! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that very hour.

When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, he saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion. He said to them, “Make room, because the girl is not dead, but sleeping,” and they started to ridicule him. But when the crowd was put out, he entered in, took the girl by the hand and she arose. The report of this spread into the entire region. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 32:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

Our soul waits for the Lord;

for He is our helper and protector;

For our heart rejoices in Him,

and we hope in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:21-28

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

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

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the Church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: 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, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, even so our consolation also overflows through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your consolation, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, knowing that, since you are partakers of the sufferings, you are also partaker of the comfort. For we do not desire to have you uninformed, brethren, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia: we were extremely oppressed, beyond our power, so much that we even despaired of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves but [only] in God who raises the dead. He who delivered us from such a great death and continued to deliver; we hope that he will also deliver us. You also help by your supplication on our behalf; so that thanksgiving will be offered for the gift bestowed on us by means of many.

Our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience. We act in the world in holiness and sincerity of God (not in carnal wisdom but in the grace of God), and we do so more abundantly toward you. We only write what you can read and acknowledge: I hope that you will accept [those things] to the end; as you also received us in part. I also hope that we are your boasting, even as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

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 evil one 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 9:36-42

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.

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.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 27:8, 9

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is the strength of His people,

and the protector and the salvation of His Anointed.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;

shepherd them and raise them up forever.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 7:36-50

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

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered into the Pharisee’s house, and sat at the table. And behold, a woman who was a sinner in the city, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of perfume. Standing behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with the hair of her head, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. Now, when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, “If this man was a prophet, he would have perceived who is touching him and what kind of woman this is, that she is a sinner.”

Jesus said to him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

He said, “Speak, teacher.”

“A certain lender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Then, which of them will love him the most?”

Simon answered, “The one to whom he forgave the most I suppose.”

Jesus said to him, “You have judged correctly.” Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered into your house, and you gave me no water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with the her hair. You gave me no kiss, but since the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she has loved much. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of September or Ⲑⲟⲟⲩⲧ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

### The First Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 66:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,

and may He manifest His face upon us,

and have mercy upon us, *(Pause)*

that we may know Your way upon the earth,

[and] Your salvation among all nations.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 14:15-21

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

When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This place is deserted, and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We only have here five loaves and two fish!”

Jesus said, “Bring them to me.” Having instructed the crowds to sit down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed, broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples distributed it to the multitudes. And so, everyone ate and was satisfied. His disciples gathered up twelve baskets full of what remained left over from the broken pieces. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 62:2ab, 3

A Psalm of David.

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

My soul thirsts for You.

So I appear before You in the sanctuary,

to see Your power and Your glory.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Our of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They cameand took hold ofhis feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

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

Now, when I came to Troas for the Good News of Christ as a door was opened to me in the Lord, I had no relief for my spirit, because I did not find Titus, my brother. After taking my leave of them [in Troas], I headed into Macedonia. Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and reveals through us the sweet fragrance of his knowledge in every place. Indeed, we are a sweet fragrance of Christ to God, both in those who are saved and in those who perish. To the latter, we are a stench from death to death, but to the first [we are] a sweet fragrance from life to life. Who is equal to such a task? We are not as many who ‘peddle the word of God’, but we speak in Christ with sincerity, as of God and in the sight of God.

Are we again trying to obtain your approval? Or do we need (as some do) letters of recommendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all! It is being revealed that you are a letter of Christ, served by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, and not in tablets of stone but in tablets that are hearts of flesh. We have such confidence through Christ toward God; not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves; but our competence is from God who has made us competent as servants of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:22-2:5

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

Having purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart, fervently! You have been born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, through the word ofGod which lives and remains forever. For:

*All flesh is like grass,*

*and all of man’s glory like the flower in the grass.*

*The grass withers, and its flower falls;*

*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.

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 13:36-43

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 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. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 33:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord at all times,

His praise will be continually in my mouth.

My soul will be praised in the Lord;

let the meek hear and be glad.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 2:1-12

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

After some time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum, it was heard that he was in the house. Immediately, many people gathered so that there was no more room, not even around the door. As Jesus was preaching the word to them, four men came, carrying a paralytic to him. Since they could not come near to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof where he was. When they had broken it up, they let down the mat that the paralytic was lying on. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

But there were some of the scribes sitting there, and they reasoned in their hearts, “Why does this man speak blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Immediately, Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were reasoning within themselves in this way. He asked them, “Why do you reason these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven;’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“I tell you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house!”

The man arose, and at once took up the mat, and went out in front of them all. The people were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 66:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Let the peoples confess You, O God;

let all the peoples confess You.

Let the nations be glad and rejoice;

for You will judge the peoples justly,

and guide the nations upon the earth.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 17:24-27

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

When they arrived in Capernaum, those who collected the temple tax came to Peter, and said, “Does not your teacher pay the temple tax?” He replied, “Yes.”

When he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth receive toll or tribute? From their children, or from foreigners?”

Peter said to him, “From strangers!”

Jesus said to him, “Therefore, the children are exempt. But in order not to cause them to stumble, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take up the first fish that comes up. When you have opened its mouth, you will find a stater coin. Take it, and give it to them for me and you.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 62:7, 4a, 5a

A Psalm of David.

I remember You on my bed,

I meditate on You at daybreak,

My lips will praise You,

So I will bless You in my life.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 16:2-8

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 4:5-15

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

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 14:24-15:3

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

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

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm Psalm 65:1, 2, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Sing to His Name; give glory to His praise.

Let all the earth worship You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 5:1-11

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

Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and they were washing their nets. Jesus entered into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered him, “Master, we worked all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the net.” When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking. They beckoned to their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so [much] that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!” He and all who were with him were amazed at their catch of fish; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid! From now on, you will be catching people alive.”

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Palm 70:5, 6c, 7a

A Psalm of David.

For You are my patience, O Lord;

the Lord is my hope from my youth.

My song is continually of You.

I have become a wonder to many.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:35-41

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 56:9b, 10, 11a

A Psalm of David.

I will arise at dawn.

I will confess You, O Lord,…

I will sing praises to You among the nations,

for Your mercy is magnified.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 16:12-24

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

Now concerning Apollos, the brother: I strongly urged him to come to you with the brothers; but it was not his desire to come now. He will come when he has an opportunity.

Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! Let all that you do be done in love.

Now I beg you, brethren (you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to serve the saints), that you also be in service to people like this to everyone who helps in the work and labors. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus; for what was lacking on your part, they supplied. They refreshed my spirit and yours; show therefore your appreciation to such people.

The Churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the Church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss!

This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:4-12

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 70:7b, 8

A Psalm of David.

You are my strong helper.

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise,

that I may sing of Your glory and magnificence all day long.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:22-28

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

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, “Can this be the son of David?” However, when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man can only cast out demons by {the authority of} Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!”

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus told them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? If it is by Beelzebul that I cast out demons, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 118:7, 8a

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with an upright heart,

when I learn of the judgments of Your righteousness;

I will keep Your statutes.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 14:22-36

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

Immediately after this, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and told them to go ahead of him to the other side, while he would send the crowds away. After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying “Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him and said, “Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters.”

And Jesus said, “Come!”

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, “You are truly the Son of God!”

When they had crossed over [the lake], they arrived in the land of Gennesaret. When the people of that place recognized him, they sent word into all that surrounding region and people brought him all who were sick. They begged him to be able to just touch the fringe of his garment, and all those who touched it were healed. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 34:18, 28

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You[, O Lord] in a great assembly.

I will praise You among many people.

And my tongue will tell of Your righteousness,

and sing Your praise all the day long.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teachere!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 6:3-21

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

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness, such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith] in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

Instrust those who are rich in this present world that they should not be proud or place their hope uncertain of riches but on the living God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Teach them to do good, to be rich in good works, ready to distribute and willing to share. In this way they will store up for themselves a good foundation for the future and take hold of eternal life.

Timothy, guard what has been committed to you! Turn away from worldly and empty discussions and from the contradiction of the (falsely) so-called knowledge. Those who have embraced this have wandered from the faith! Grace be with you! Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:17-5:11

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

If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’ content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous one who does not resist you.

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

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

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.

\*[] OSB has “is full of compassion and mercy.”

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

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

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presbyters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 78:13

A Psalm of David.

We, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture,

will confess You openly forever;

we will declare Your praise from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 7:11-17

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

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a city called Nain. Many of his disciples, along with a great multitude, went with him. Now, when Jesus drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a dead person was being carried out, who was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said to her, “Do not cry.” He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He then said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!” And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. Jesus then gave him to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited his people!” This news concerning Jesus spread throughout Judea and in all the surrounding countryside. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of October or Ⲡⲁⲱⲡⲉ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

### The First Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16ab, 7ab, [16:6a or 17:7c]

A Psalm of David.

The ocean beds were exposed,

and the foundations of the world were uncovered.

I called upon the Lord,

and cried to my God:

He heard my voice

Alleluia.

##### Mark 4:10-20

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

When he was alone, those who were around him together with the Twelve asked him about the parables. Jesus told them, “The mystery of the Kingdom of God is given to you, but to those who are outside, everything comes in parables, so that ‘seeing they may [indeed] see, and [yet] not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and [yet] not understand; otherwise they might repent and be forgiven them.’”

Jesus asked them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the [other] parables? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like the seed sowed by the edge of the road where the word is sown. As soon as they have heard, Satan comes and takes away the word which had been sown in them. Likewise, those who are sown on the rocky places are those who receive the word with joy as soon as they hear it. But they have no root in themselves and only last for a short while. When oppression or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately stumble. Others are those who are sown among the thorns.

These are people who have heard the word, but the worries of this age, the deceit of wealth, and the desire to possess things enter in and choke the word. Thus, it produces no fruit. The seeds which were sown on the good ground are those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit. Some multiply thirty times, some sixty, and some a hundred times!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 64:10 [65:9 or 10 references, but not found in Psalm text]

A Psalm of David.

You visited the earth and watered it;

You enriched it abundantly;

The river of God is full of water;

You prepare their flood,

for such is Your provision.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Our of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They came and took hold ofhis feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Corinthians 9:1-9

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

It is not needed that I should write to you about the ministry to the saints. Indeed, I know that you are ready and I boast about you to the Macedonians, that you in Achaia have been ready since last year. Your zeal has encouraged very many of them! But I have sent the brothers, so that our boasting about you may not be in vain in this respect: as I have said, be prepared. Otherwise, if anyone from Macedonia comes with us and find you unprepared, we (to say nothing of you) would be disappointed in this confident boasting [about you]. Therefore, I thought it necessary to ask the brothers to reach you first in order to arrange ahead of time the generous gift which you promised before. Thus, may the gift be ready as a matter of generosity, not greediness. Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Let everyone give according to what he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that by having what is needed in everything, you may overflow in every good work. As it is written:

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

*His righteousness remains forever.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 10:37-11:1

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.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. The believers who had come with Peter and who were of the circumcision were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. Indeed, they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God.

At this, Peter said, “Can anyone refuse the water to these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit as well as we had, and say that they should not be baptized?” He then ordered that they be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. After this, they asked him to stay for a few days.

Now, the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 64:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Water its furrows, multiply its crops;

they will sprout and rejoice in the showers.

You will bless the crown of the year with Your goodness,

and the fields will be full of fat stock.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 8:4-15

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

When a great multitude came together, and people from every city were coming to him, he spoke by a parable. “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the wayside, and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it. Other seed fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew, it withered away because it had no moisture. Other fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew with it, and choked it. Other fell into the good ground, grew, and brought forth fruit a hundred times.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

Then his disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

Jesus replied, “To you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest, [it is given] in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ Now, this what the parable means: The seed is the word of God. Those along the wayside are those who hear. Then, the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are those who receive the word with joy when they hear. But they have no root; they believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation. What fell among the thorns is those who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries, wealth, and the pleasures of life; and they bring no fruit to maturity. As for the seed that fell in the rich soil, this is those who have heard the word with an honest and good heart, who retain it and bring forth fruit with endurance. Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 103:13, 14ab

A Psalm of David.

You are He Who waters mountains from His higher places;

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

You are He Who makes grass grow for the cattle,

and plants for the service of man.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 12:27-31

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

Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 66:7, 8b

A Psalm of David.

The earth has yielded her fruit;

may God, our God, bless us,

and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 16:2-8

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 6:7-15

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

On the other hand, the land which has absorbed the rain that comes often upon it and thus brings forth a crop suitable for those who till it; such a land receives blessing from God. Yet, if it bears thorns and thistles, it is rejected, close to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

But, beloved, even though we speak like this, we are persuaded of better things for you, of things that accompany salvation. God is not unrighteous, so as to forget your work and the labor of love which you showed for his Name by serving the saints even as you still serve them. We desire that each one of you may show the same zeal to the end, to [obtain] the fullness of hope. Do not be sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience have inherited the promises.

When God made a promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless and multiply you.” Thus, having patiently endured, Abraham obtained the promise.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 14-25

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

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,*

*to execute judgment on all,*

*and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness*

*which they have done in an ungodly way,*

*and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:19-29

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.

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.”

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.” Then, the captain went with the officers and brought them without using force because they were afraid that the people might stone them.

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.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 103:16, 10

A Psalm of David.

The trees of the plain will be fed,

the cedars of Lebanon, which He planted.

[You are] He Who makes springs gush down into ravines;

the waters will flow between the mountains.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 13:1-9

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

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the seaside. As great crowds gathered to [listen to] him, he entered into a boat and sat while the people stood on the beach. He told them many things in parables, saying, “Behold, a farmer went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them. Others fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up. But because they had no depth of soil, when the sun rose, they were [quickly] scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. Anyone who has ears should listen!” Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 85:2b, 3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Save Your servant, O my God, who hopes in You.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

for I will cry to You all day long.

Gladden the soul of Your servant.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 11:25-30

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 112:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

From the sun’s rising to its setting,

praise the Name of the Lord!

The Lord is high above all the nations;

His glory is above the heavens.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

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

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy: to the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith is growing wonderfully and your mutual love for all is overflowing. Therefore, in the Churches of God, we boast about you for your patience, faith in all your persecutions and for the afflictions which you endure. This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, so that you may be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you too suffer. It is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us. This will be when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, bringing vengeance to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes to be glorified in his holy ones and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

With this in mind, we also pray always for you, so that our God may account you worthy of your calling and fulfill with power [your] every desire of goodness and work of faith. May the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:30-42

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.

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 85:15, 16

A Psalm of David.

But You, O Lord God, are compassionate and merciful,

longsuffering, plenteous in mercy, and true.

Look upon me and have mercy on me;

give Your strength to Your servant,

and save the son of Your handmaid.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:25-35

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

Great crowds were now traveling with him. He turned and said to them, “Anyone who comes to me and does not disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying: ‘This man began to build and he was not able to finish!’ Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with twenty thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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

### The Fourth Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 85:12, 10

A Psalm of David.

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

And I will glorify Your Name forever,

For You are great, and work wonders;

You alone are the great God.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 17:14-21

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

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him who knelt down before him and said: “Lord, have mercy on my son! He is epileptic and suffers terribly as he often falls into the fire and in the water. And so, I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Jesus answered, “Faithless and perverse generation! how much longer must I be with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him to me.” When Jesus rebuked it, the demon went out of the boy and he was cured from that hour.

Then, the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why were not we able to cast it out?”

He replied, “Because of your unbelief! Amen, I tell you that if you have faith [even] like a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind [of spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 142:8

A Psalm of David.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,

for I have hoped in You.

Make me know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk,

for I lift up my soul to You.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teacher!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

And so, let everyone think of us as Christ’s servants, and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful! But as far as I am concerned, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or according to human judgment. Yes, I do not [even] judge my own self, for I know nothing against myself. Yet, I am not justified by this, but the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, [that is] until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of every heart. Then, each person will receive due praise from God.

Brethren, I have figuratively applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that in us you might learn the meaning of ‘not beyond the things which are written’, so that none of you will be puffed up against another. Indeed, who makes you different? And what do you have that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [But] you are already filled! You have already become rich and you have come to rule apart from us! Yes, and I wish that you would really be rulers, so that we also might reign with you. I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked, beaten and [we] wander from place to place! We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 16:40-17:7

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.

So, they went out of the prison and went to Lydia’s house where they met the brethren and encouraged them. Then, they departed.

After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul gave them his attention and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. He explained and showed that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and said, “This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ.”

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city officials, shouting, “These people who have turned the world upside down have also come here, and Jason has received them! All of them act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 99:3bc

A Psalm of David.

[You, O Lord God] made us, and not we ourselves;

we are [Your] people and the sheep of [Your] pasture.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 10:17-31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter began to tell him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you.”

Jesus replied, “Amen, I tell you: there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, father or mother, or wife, children, or land, for my sake and for the sake of the Good News who will not receive a hundred times more in this time: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, (with persecutions); and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last; and the last [will be] first.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of November or Ⲁⲑⲟⲣ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

### The First Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 12:2, 3a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

How long, O Lord, will You forget me? Forever?

How long will You turn Your face from me?

Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God;

enlighten my eyes.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 14:3-9

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

While Jesus was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar, and poured the oil over his head. But there were some who were upset and who said, “Why has this ointment een wasted? It could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” They grumbled against her, but Jesus said, “Leave her alone! Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for me. You always have the poor with you, and whenever you want to, you can do them good; but you will not always have me! She has done what she could: she has anointed my body in advance for the burial. Amen, I tell you: wherever this Good News will be preached throughout the whole world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:20b, 21a, 22

A Psalm of David.

The Lord looked from heaven upon the earth,

to hear the groaning of the prisoners,

to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion

and His praise in Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 12:41-44

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

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting their money into the treasury. Many who were rich gave much. A poor widow came, and she put in two small coins, which amount to a quadrans coin. He called his disciples to himself, and told them, “Amen, I tell you that this poor widow gave more than all those [others] who are giving to the treasury. For they all gave out of their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-17

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. Through him, we received have grace and apostleship, for obedience of faith among all the nations, for his Name’s sake. Among them, you are also called to belong to Jesus Christ.

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. 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. I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. This is why there is so much eagerness on my part to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! a 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

##### James 1:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

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.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 101:14ab, 17

A Psalm of David.

When You arise You will and have compassion on Zion,

for it is the appointed time to have compassion on her;

for the Lord will build up Zion,

and He will appear in His glory.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 1:1-25

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

Many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us, even as those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning have delivered them to us. For this reason, it has seemed good to me also, after reviewing the course of all things accurately from the beginning, to write an ordered account to you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the days of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zacharias who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. Yet, they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were well advanced in years. Now, it came to pass that while Zacharias was performing his priestly office before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priest’s office, that his lot was [drawn] to enter into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. Now, at the time of the incense offering, the whole multitude of the people was praying outside.

Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was startled when he saw the angel and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, because your petition has been heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord! He will drink no wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. He will bring back many of the children of Israel to the Lord, their God. He will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zacharias said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years!”

The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel who stands near before God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”

The people were waiting for Zacharias and wondering as he delayed in the sanctuary. When he came out, he could not speak to them and they understood that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He continued making signs to them and remained mute. When the days of his service were fulfilled, Zacharias returned to his house. After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she hid herself five months, saying: “The Lord has done this to me in the days when he looked at me, in order to take away my disgrace among men.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 143:5, 7a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, bow the heavens, and come down;

touch the mountains, and they will smoke.

Send out Your hand from on high;

deliver me and save me.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 7:36-50

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

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered into the Pharisee’s house, and sat at the table. And behold, a woman who was a sinner in the city, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of perfume. Standing behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with the hair of her head, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. Now, when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, “If this man was a prophet, he would have perceived who is touching him and what kind of woman this is, that she is a sinner.”

Jesus said to him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

He said, “Speak, teacher.”

“A certain lender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Then, which of them will love him the most?”

Simon answered, “The one to whom he forgave the most I suppose.”

Jesus said to him, “You have judged correctly.” Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered into your house, and you gave me no water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with the her hair. You gave me no kiss, but since the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she has loved much. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 71:6, 7a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

He will descend like rain on a fleece,

and like drops falling on the earth.

In His days, righteousness and abundant peace

will flourish.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:20-28

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

However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

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

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

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

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”

But Jesus said, “Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 3:1-4:3

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

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

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

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

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

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

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

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

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

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

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 ofthe 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. 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.

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 ofthe 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.

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.”

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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 7:30-34

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

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 44:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Listen, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear,

and forget your people and your father’s house,

for the King desired your beauty,

for He is your Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 1:26-38

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

Now, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. Having come in, the angel said to her, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and you will call his name ‘Jesus.’ He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And to his Kingdom there shall be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. Behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month [of her pregnancy] for her who was called barren. For everything spoken by God is possible.”

Mary said, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Be it to me according to your word.”

And the angel departed from her. Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 131:13, 14, 15a

A Psalm of David.

For the Lord has chosen Zion;

He chose her for His dwelling:

“This is My resting-place to the age of ages;

I will dwell here, for I have chosen her.

Blessing, I will bless her widow.”

Alleluia.

##### Mark 1:23-31

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

Just then, there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit who cried out, “Away! What do we have to do with you, Jesus, you Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God!”

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

The unclean spirit, convulsing the man and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching? For with authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” The news about him went out immediately everywhere into all the region of Galilee and its surrounding area.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately, they told him about her. Jesus came, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 84:8, 9ab

A Psalm of David.

Show us Your mercy, O Lord,

and grant us Your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God will speak within me;

for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 15:21-31

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

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

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 4:4-24

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

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 7:35-50

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.

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. 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. 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 youa way beyond Babylon.’*

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.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 84:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed [each other].

Truth has sprung from the earth,

and righteousness has looked down from heaven.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 1:39-56

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

In those days, Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah. She entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lordc should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped in my womb out of joy! Blessed is she who believed, for the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!”

Mary said,

*My soul magnifies the Lord*

*And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,*

*for he has looked at the humble state of his handmaid.*

*For behold, from now on, all generations shall call me blessed.*

*For he who is mighty has done great things for me, And Holy is his Name!*

*His mercy is for generations of generations on those who fear him.*

*He has shown strength with his arm,*

*He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,*

*He has put down princes from their thrones.*

*And has exalted the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,*

*He has sent the rich away empty.*

*He has given help to Israel, his servant,*

*So that he might remember mercy,*

*As he spoke to our fathers,*

*to Abraham and his seed forever.*

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, and then returned to her house. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 86:5

A Psalm of David.

A man will say, “Mother Zion,”

and, “a man was born in her,”

for the Most High Himself founded her.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 8:1-3

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

Soon afterwards, Jesus went through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of God. With him were the Twelve, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, the wife of Chuzas, Herod’s steward; Susanna; and many others; who served him from their possessions. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 95:11, 12b, 13

A Psalm of David.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea, and all that is in it, roar.

All the trees of the forest will rejoice

before the face of the Lord; For He is coming,

He is coming to… the world in righteousness,

and the peoples by His truth.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 3:28-35

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

Amen, all human sins will be forgiven, and all the blasphemies ever uttered; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”.[He spoke these words] because they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

His mother and his brothers came and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A large group was sitting around him, and they

told him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you.”

He answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, “Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother, and my sister, and mother.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 9:6-33

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

But it is not as though the word of God has come to nothing. For those of ‘Israel’ are not all Israel, And just because they are Abraham’s seed, not all are children. But, “In Isaac, will your seed will called.” That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as descendants. For this is a word of promise, “At the appointed time I will come, and Sarah will have a son.” Not only so, but Rebecca also conceived by our father Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God’s purpose of election might stand, not of works, but of him who calls), it was said to her, “The elder will serve the younger.” Even as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

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

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

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

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

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

*‘You are not my people,’*

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

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

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

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

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

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

As Isaias has said before:

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

*We would have become like Sodom,*

*And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not in fact arrive at the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but by the works of the law! They stumbled over the stumbling stone, even as it is written:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and a rock of offense;*

*And no one who believes in him will be disappointed.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 2:24-3:3

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

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! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him. 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 7:8-22

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.

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into Egypt where he died, along with our fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father’s house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 79:2c, 3, 4

A Psalm of David.

[You] Who is enthroned upon the Cherubim, manifest Yourself!

Raise up Your power before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

and come to save us!

O God, bring us back,

and let Your face shine[[1]](#footnote-1), and we will be saved.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 1:57-80

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

Now, the time when Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and they wanted to name him Zacharias after his father. But his mother answered, “It shall not be! Instead, he will be called John!”

They said to her, “But there is no one among your relatives who is called by this name!” They made signs to his father so see what he wanted to have his son called.

Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.”

They were all very surprised. Suddenly, his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He began to speak, blessing God. Awe came upon all who lived around them, and people talked about these sayings throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All those who heard these things took them to heart and exclaimed, “What then will this child be?” The hand of the Lord was with him.

His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,*

*for he has visited and worked redemption for his people;*

*and has raised up a horn of salvation for us*

*in the house of his servant David*

*(as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been from of old),*

*salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;*

*to show mercy towards our fathers,*

*to remember his holy covenant,*

*the oath which he spoke to Abraham, our father,*

*to grant to us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,*

*should offer him divine service without fear,*

*In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.*

*And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,*

*for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways,*

*to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins,*

*because of the tender mercy of our God,*

*by which the dawn from on high will visit us,*

*to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;*

*to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

The child was growing up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of December or Ⲕⲟⲓⲁϩⲕ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

### The First Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 46:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

Clap your hands, all you nations;

shout to God with a voice of rejoicing.

For the Lord Most High is awesome,

a great King over all the earth.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:40-44

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

When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

When it was day, he departed and went into an uninhabited place. The people were looking for him and came to [see] him. They held on to him in order to prevent Jesus from leaving them. But he said to them, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also. I have been sent for this reason!” And he continued preaching in the synagogues of Galilee. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 92:1bc, 2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty;

The Lord robed and girded Himself with power;

Your throne is prepared from of old,

You are from everlasting.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:31-37

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 15:4-19a

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

For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God. Now, I say that Christ was made a servant of the circumcision for the truth of God, so that he might confirm the promises given to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

*Therefore, I will give you praise among the Gentiles,*

*And sing to your Name.*

Again he says:

*Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.*

Again:

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!*

*Let all the peoples praise him.*

Again, Isaias says:

*There will be the root of Jesse,*

*He who arises to rule over the Gentiles;*

*In him the Gentiles will hope.*

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God’s Spirit.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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. 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 14:24-15:3

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

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

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 97:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

The Lord made known His salvation;

He revealed His righteousness

in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His mercy to Jacob

and His truth to the house of Israel.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 2:13-23

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

After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. They remained there until the death of Herod, so what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Out of Egypt I have called my son.*

When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.*

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph ina dream when he was in Egypt, saying: “Arise! Take the young child andhis mother, and return the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill theyoung child’s are dead.”

Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel. However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 97:3bc, 9bc

A Psalm of David.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with uprightness.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 14:22-36

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

Immediately after this, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and told them to go ahead of him to the other side, while he would send the crowds away. After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying “Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him and said, “Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters.”

And Jesus said, “Come!”

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, “You are truly the Son of God!” When they had crossed over [the lake], they arrived in the land of Gennesaret. When the people of that place recognized him, they sent word into all that surrounding region and people brought him all who were sick. They begged him to be able to just touch the fringe of his garment, and all those who touched it were healed. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 96:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;

let the many islands be glad!

Clouds and darkness are around Him;

righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 3:7-12

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 5:2-10

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

Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit to you! Yes, once again, I testify to everyone who receives circumcision that he is [now] under duty to accomplish the whole law! You who desire to be justified by the law are no longer under Christ: you have fallen away from grace. As for us, through the Spirit, we wait by faith for the hope of righteousness, since in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value, only faith working through love. You were running so well! Who came to block your way so that you would not obey the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you! [Remember], a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough! I have confidence toward you in the Lord that you will take no other view; but whoever troubles you will bear his [own] judgment, whoever that [person] may be.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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. 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 15:22-29

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.

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 83:7b, 8a; 64:3

A Psalm of David.

For there the Lawgiver will give blessings.

They will go from strength to strength;

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:27-36

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

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”

But Jesus said, “Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

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

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

### The Third Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 76:19bc, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Your lightnings gave light to the world;

the earth shook and trembled.

[O God,] Your ways are in the sea,

and Your paths in many waters.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:1-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 96:6

A Psalm of David.

The heavens proclaimed His righteousness,

and all the peoples beheld His glory.

His lightning gave light to the world;

the earth saw and shook.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:1-21

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

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

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

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

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

Nicodemus said, “How can these things be?”

Jesus replied and said, “You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 10:19-39

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 righteousa will live by faith.*

*If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.*

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who believe and so are saved.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 4:11-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:38-45

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

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

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They soldtheir possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 65:12bc, 8

A Psalm of David.

We passed through fire and water,

and You brought us out to revival.

Bless our God, O nations,

and make the voice of His praise be heard.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:22-36a

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

After these things, Jesus came with his disciples into the land of Judea. He stayed there with them, and baptized. John also was baptizing at Enon near Salim, because there was much water there, and people came, and [they] were baptized. (For John had not yet been thrown into prison). Now, there arose a discussion on the part of John’s disciples with some Jews about ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, behold, this one is [now] baptizing and everyone is coming to him!”

John answered, “No one can receive anything, unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom who stands [by] and hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. And so my joy is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and from the earth he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all. What he has seen and heard is what he bears witness to, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted his testimony has set his seal [to this], that God is true. Indeed the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 77:20ab, 23

A Psalm of David.

[Behold,] He struck a rock and water gushed out

and brooks flooded.

Then He commanded the clouds above,

and opened the doors of heaven.

Alleluia.

##### John 5:31-46

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 79:8, 19

A Psalm of David.

O Lord God of hosts, bring us back,

and let Your face shine [upon us], and we will be saved.

Then we will never turn away from You [again];

You will revive us and we will call on Your Name.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:47-58

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

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

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 11:13-36

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

For I speak to you who are Gentiles: since I am an apostle to Gentiles, I glorify my ministry. May I somehow provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh so that I may save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciling of the world, what would their acceptance be, if not life from the dead? If the first fruit is holy, so is the whole batch. If the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them. Having become partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive tree; do not boast over the branches! But if you boast, it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.” True; by their unbelief they were broken off, and you stand [in] by your faith. Do not be full of pride, but fear! Certainly, if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you! You see, then, both the goodness and the severity of God. Toward those who fell, severity [was shown]; but towards you, goodness, [that is], if you continue in his goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. As for them, if they do not continue in their unbelief, they will be grafted in {again}, because God is able to graft them in again. If you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted against nature into a good olive tree, how much more will the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!

Indeed, I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brethren, so that you may not claim to be wiser than you are: a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles should come in. And thus all Israel will be saved. Even as it is written:

*There will come out of Zion the Deliverer,*

*and he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.*

*This is my covenant to them,*

*When I will take away their sins.*

Concerning the Good News, they are enemies for your sake. But concerning the election, they are beloved for the sake of the forefathers. Indeed, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable! In the past, you were disobedient to God, but now, you have obtained mercy by their disobedience. Likewise, they also have now been disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. For God has bound all men to disobedience, so that he might have mercy on all.

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and how unfathomable are his ways!

*For who has known the mind of the Lord?*

*Or who has been his counselor?*

*Or who has first given to the Lord so as to be paid back?*

Indeed, from him, and through him, and to him, are all things. To him be the glory unto the ages! Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 John 5:9-21

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.

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 tous, 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 knowhim 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 11:2:18

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 35:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

For the fountain of life is with You,

and we see light in Your light.

O continue Your mercy to those who know You,

and Your righteousness to the upright in heart!

Alleluia.

##### John 9:1-38

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

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

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

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

Then they asked him, “Where is he?”

The man replied, “I do not know.”

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

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

He said, “He is a prophet!”

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

His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself.”

His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, this person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age. Ask him!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe!” and he worshiped Jesus. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of January or Ⲧⲱⲃⲓ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

### The First Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 81:8, 6

A Psalm of David.

Arise, O God, judge the earth,

for You will inherit all the nations

I said, “you are gods

and all of you are sons of the Most High.”

Alleluia.

##### John 6:15-21

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

Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force in order to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea where they got into the boat and headed across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not returned to them. Because a great wind was blowing, the sea became rough. After rowing about three or four miles, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and approaching the boat. And they were frightened, but Jesus said to them, “It is I! Do not be afraid!” At this, they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately, the boat reached the shore where they were going. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 118:105, 135

A Psalm of David.

Your word is a lamp to my feet,

and a light to my paths.

Make Your face shine upon Your servant,

and teach me Your statutes.

Alleluia.

##### John 8:51-59

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

Then the Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, and [so did] the prophets; and [yet] you say, ‘whoever keeps my word will never see death.’ Are you greater than our father, Abraham, who died? The prophets died [too]. Who do you claim to be?”

Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, ‘I do not know him,’ I would be like you, a liar. But I [do] know him, and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad!”

At this, the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; before Abraham came into existence, I am.”

Therefore, they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus was hidden, and having gone through their midst and so passing by, he went out of the temple. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

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

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 3:14-18

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 9:3-9

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

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.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 95:6, 4

A Psalm of David.

Confession and beauty are before Him;

holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

For the Lord is great, and very much praiseworthy;

He is to be feared above all gods,

Alleluia.

##### John 6:22-27

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

On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, [a few] boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. And so, when the multitude noticed that neither Jesus nor his disciples was not there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to seek Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you arrive here?”

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were satisfied. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For the Father has sealed him – [even] God!” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 14:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle,

or who will live on Your holy mountain?

He who walks blamelessly, and works righteousness,

who speaks truth in his heart.

Alleluia.

##### John 4:46-53

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

Therefore, Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee where he had turned the water into wine. Now, there was a certain royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and begged him that he would come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Jesus then said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders, you will never believe!”

The nobleman said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” Jesus told him, “Go on your way. Your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and he went on his way. Even as he was on the way, his servants met him and told him the news: “Your child lives!” He asked them the hour when the boy had begun to get better. Then, they told him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him!” And so, the father learned that it was at that [very] hour in which Jesus had said to him, “Your son lives.” And he believed, along with his whole household. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 23:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Who will ascend into the mountain of the Lord,

or who will stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Alleluia.

##### John 3:17-21

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 7:1-17

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

This Melchizedek was king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham when he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and who blessed him. Moreover, Abraham gave a tenth part of all to this Melchizedek. By the interpretation of his name, he is, first, ‘king of saving justice’ and also king of Salem, that is, ‘king of peace’; without father, mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. He was made like the Son of God and remains a priest for all times. Now, consider how great this man was, since even the Patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth out from the best spoils! Indeed, the sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, although they too are Abraham’s descendants. But this man, who was not of the same descent, received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who has the promises! Now, nobody will question that the lesser is blessed by the greater. Here, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. We can say that through Abraham even Levi (who would [latter] receive tithes), had paid tithes, for he was still ‘in the body’ of his father when Melchizedek met him. Now, if perfection had come through the Levitical priesthood (under which the people received the law), what further need would there be for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek and not that of Aaron? And as the priesthood is being changed, there is also, by necessity, a change in the law as well. So our Lord, of whom these things were said, belongs to another tribe, one from which no one has served at the altar. It is clear indeed that our Lord has come from the tribe of Judah, about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. This is even more obvious if after the likeness of Melchizedek, another priest was to rise, one who was not made according to the law of a carnal commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life. As it is testified:

*You are a priest forever,*

*according to the order of Melchizedek.*

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 John (all)

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. 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 18:9-21 (except end)

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

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

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

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

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

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 95:7, 8, 9a

A Psalm of David.

Bring to the Lord, O families of nations,

bring to the Lord glory and honour;

bring to the Lord the glory due to His Name;

raise offerings and enter into His courts;

worship the Lord in His holy court.

Alleluia.

##### John 6:5-14

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

When Jesus looked up and saw that a great crowd was coming to him, he asked Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these [people] may eat?” But he said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, so that everyone might receive [even] a little!”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves [of bread] and two fish, but what are these among so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now, there was much grass in that place; and so the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, and having given thanks, he distributed [it] to the disciples, and the disciples to those who were sitting down; and [he did] likewise with the fish, as much as they desired. When they were filled, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the broken pieces which are left over, so that nothing be lost!” And so, they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which Jesus had accomplished, they said, “This is truly the prophet who comes into the world!” Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 16:16, 3a

A Psalm of David.

As for me, in righteousness I will behold Your face,

and will be satisfied when Your glory is revealed.

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

Alleluia.

##### John 5:39-47

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 88:53, 50

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen! Amen!

Where are Your mercies of old, O Lord,

which You swore to David by Your truth?

Alleluia.

##### John 12:44-50

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

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 3:1-4:2

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

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus, who was faithful to the one who had appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house. Yet, Jesus is accounted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house! Every house is built by someone, but the one who built all things is God. Moses indeed was a faithful servant in all of God’s house, as a testimony for what would later on be spoken about. But Christ is faithful as a Son over his house and we are his house, if we firmly hold on to the confidence and pride of our hope until the end. Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says:

*Today if you will hear his voice,f*

*8do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,*

*as in the day of the trial in the wilderness,*

*where your fathers tested me by proving me,*

*and saw my works for forty years.*

*Therefore, I was displeased with that generation,*

*and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart,*

*they did not know my ways;’*

*As I swore in my wrath,*

*‘They will not enter into my rest.’*

Beware, brethren, for fear that one of you may have an evil and unbelieving heart that would fall away from the living God. Instead, encourage one another day by day, as long as it is called “today”, for fear that one of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold on to our first confidence until the end, as long as these words apply:

*Today if you will hear his voice,*

*do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.*

But who is it that rebelled when they heard? Were they not all those that Moses had led out of Egypt? With whom was he displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest? Was it not to those who were disobedient? We see that they were not able to enter in because of [their] unbelief.

Let us beware, then! Since the promise remains, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also had the Good News preached to us, just as them, but they gained nothing from the word they heard because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 14-25

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

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,*

*to execute judgment on all,*

*and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness*

*which they have done in an ungodly way,*

*and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 20:7-16

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.

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.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 88:2a and half of b, 7

A Psalm of David.

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth,

for who in the clouds can equal the Lord?

And who among the sons of God can be compared with the Lord?

Alleluia.

##### John 6:27-46

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

Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For the Father has sealed him – [even] God!”

As a result, they asked him, “What must we do, that we may accomplish the works of God?”

Jesus answered, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent!”

So they said to him, “What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see and believe you? What work do you accomplish? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness! As it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is what comes down out of heaven, and [it] gives life to the world.”

Then they said to him, “Lord, always give us this bread!”

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

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

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

### The Fourth Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 91:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your works,

and I will rejoice at the works of Your hands.

How magnificent are Your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:1-10

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 88:12, 2

A Psalm of David.

The heavens belong to You, and the earth is Yours;

You founded the world and all that is in it.

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:11-19

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

As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, it happened that he was passing between [the borders of] Samaria and Galilee. As he entered into a certain village, ten men who were lepers met him, and they stood at a distance. They lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

When Jesus saw them, he told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And it happened that as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks; and this man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine [others]? Was no one found who came back to glorify God, except for this foreigner?” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has healed you!” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 1:1-16

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe’s household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” “I follow Kephas,” or, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 1:13-21

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 8:5-13

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.

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 23:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

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

the world and all who dwell in it.

He has set it firmly on the seas,

and prepared it on the rivers.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 19:1-10

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

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was [about] to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!” He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. But when the people saw it, they all grumbled, saying, “He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!”

Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have wrongfully obtained money from anyone, I restore four times as much!”

Then Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ

See The Second Sunday of February or Ⲙϣⲓⲣ, page 217.

## May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

### The Third Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 78:13a, 9ab and the first half of c

A Psalm of David.

But we [are] Your people and the sheep of Your pasture,

Help us… for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name, O Lord,

and forgive our sins

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 22:34-40

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

But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered together.

One of them, a lawyer, then asked him a question in order to test him. “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. The second is likewise, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 73:12, 18 first half of 8

A Psalm of David.

Yet God is our eternal King;

He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Remember this, [Your creation].

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Hebrews 11:1-10

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

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

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

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

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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, 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 his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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 13:44-52

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 next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that God’s word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*‘I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord’s word was spread throughout the entire region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city. They instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their borders. So they shook off the dust of their feet against these people and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy with the Holy Spirit.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 67:27, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Bless God in the churches,

[bless] the Lord from the fountains of Israel!

Blessed be the Lord God;

blessed be the Lord from day to day!

Alleluia.

##### Luke 10:25-37

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

Behold, an expert in the law stood up and tested him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.”

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus answered, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him half-dead. By chance, a certain priest was going down that way. But when the priest saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite also came to the place, but when he saw the beaten man, he [also] passed by on the other side. Now, a certain Samaritan was traveling and arrived at the spot where the man was. When the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and wrapped his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He placed the man on his own animal and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he was leaving, he took out two denarii and gave them to the host, saying to him, ‘Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.’ Now, which one of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”

The lawyer replied, “The one who showed mercy on him!” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 45:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

“Be still and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our protector.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 22:41-46

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

Now while the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They answered, “[He is the son] of David.”

Jesus said to them, “How, then, does David, in the Spirit, call him ‘Lord’, saying:

*‘TheLord said to my Lord,*

*sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?’*

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 46:7, 8

A Psalm of David.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is King of all the earth;

sing praises with understanding.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teacher!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

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 ofyou 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.

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 11:2-18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!”

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 65:4ab, 1b, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Let all the earth worship You

and sing to You;

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Sing to His Name.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

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

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

### The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 92:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

The rivers have raised themselves up, O Lord,

the rivers haved lifted up their voices;

[the rivers lift up their voices, more than]

the voices of their many waters.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 14:15-21

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

When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This place is deserted, and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We only have here five loaves and two fish!”

Jesus said, “Bring them to me.” Having instructed the crowds to sit down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed, broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples distributed it to the multitudes. And so, everyone ate and was satisfied. His disciples gathered up twelve baskets full of what remained left over from the broken pieces. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### 96:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Light has dawned for the righteous,

and joy for the upright in heart.

Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,

and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 6:35-44

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

When it was late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This place is deserted and it is late in the day. Send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy bread, for they have nothing to eat.”

But Jesus answered them, “You give them something to eat!”

They asked him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give them something to eat?”

Jesus replied, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.”

When they had found out, they said, “Five loaves and two fish.”

Jesus gave them instructions that everyone should sit down in groups on the green grass, and people sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves. He then gave it to his disciples to set before the people, and he distributed the two fish among them all. Everyone ate and was satisfied, and the disciples collected twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who ate the loaves numbered about five thousand men. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 14:18-25

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.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:1-8

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’ content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous one who does not resist you.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 24:1-9

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.

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

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:6, 7ab

A Psalm of David.

I spread forth my hands to You;

my soul thirsts for You like a parched land. *(Pause)*

Hear me quickly, O Lord:

my spirit has failed.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:12-17

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

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

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

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

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

## June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

### The First Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 9:11

A Psalm of David.

Let those who know Your Name put their hope in You,

for You have never forsaken those who seek You, O Lord.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 17:1-13

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and he brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. [There], he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elias appeared to them, talking with him.

Peter then said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you want, let us make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias.”

While Peter was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were very afraid. Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this order, “Do not tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

His disciples asked him, “Why then is it that the scribes say that Elias must come first?”

Jesus answered them, “Elias indeed comes first, and he will restore all things. But I tell you that Elias has already come, and they did not recognize him. Instead, they did to him whatever they wanted to. Likewise, the Son of Man will also suffer at their hands.” Then, the disciples understood that he was speaking about John the Baptist. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 66:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,

and may He manifest His face upon us,

and have mercy upon us, *(Pause)*

that we may know Your way upon the earth,

[and] Your salvation among all nations.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Our of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They cameand took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 15:13-29

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

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God’s Spirit. And so, from Jerusalem, and as far as Illyricum, I have fully preached the Good News of Christ. Yes, I have made it my goal to preach the Good News where Christ was not already called upon, in order not to build on someone else’s foundation. But, as it is written:

*Those to whom no tidings of him came will see.*

*Those who have not heard will understand.*

For this reason, I was hindered many times from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any place in these regions and since I had for many years a longing to come to you, I [write that I] will come to you whenever I travel to Spain, in order to be helped on my way there by you, and first ofall to enjoy your company for a while. But now, I want you to know that I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints. It has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. Yes, it has been their good pleasure, as they are in debt to them. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, they owe it to them to be of service in material things. After I accomplish this and deliver this harvest to them, I will go to Spain by your way. I know that, when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the Good News of Christ.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 1:1-9

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 12:25-13:12

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.

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 142:10b, 8

A Psalm of David.

Your good Spirit will guide me to the land of uprightness.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,

for I have hoped in You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:1-13

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

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

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

*‘Our Father in heaven,*

*May your Name be kept holy!*

*May your Kingdom come!*

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

*Give us day by day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins,*

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

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

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 15:7, 8

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord Who makes me to understand,

so that even at night my heart instructs me.

I see the Lord before me continually,

for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 4:38-41

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

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 33:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord at all times,

His praise will be continually in my mouth.

My soul will be praised in the Lord;

let the meek hear and be glad.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 16:2-8

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

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

However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of

this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

*Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,*

*Which did not enter into the heart of man,*

*These God has prepared for those who love him.*

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God’s Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 14:8-22

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.

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 without witness: 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 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.”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 12:7, 6

A Psalm of David.

I will sing to the Lord, my benefactor,

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

But I hope in Your mercy;

my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 5:17-26

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

It happened on one of those days, that Jesus was teaching; and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every village of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was with him to heal the people. Behold, men brought a paralyzed man on a cot, and they sought to bring him in to lay before Jesus. Not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up to the housetop and let him down through the tiles with his cot, right in the center, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, he said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

The scribes and the Pharisees began to wonder, saying, “Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”

But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, answered them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts in such as way? Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you;’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (he said to the paralyzed man), “I tell you, arise, and take up your cot, and go to your house.”

Immediately, the man rose up before them and took up what he was laying on, and departed to his house, glorifying God. Amazement took hold of all, and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!” Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 6:2, 37:16

A Psalm of David.

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

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

For in You, O Lord, I hope;

You will hear me, O Lord my God.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 7:7-12

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 37:22, 23

A Psalm of David.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;

O my God, do not be far from me.

Come to my help,

O Lord of my salvation.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

And so, let everyone think of us as Christ’s servants, and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful! But as far as I am concerned, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or according to human judgment. Yes, I do not [even] judge my own self, for I know nothing against myself. Yet, I am not justified by this, but the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, [that is] until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of every heart. Then, each person will receive due praise from God.

Brethren, I have figuratively applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that in us you might learn the meaning of ‘not beyond the things which are written’, so that none of you will be puffed up against another. Indeed, who makes you different? And what do you have that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [But] you are already filled! You have already become rich and you have come to rule apart from us! Yes, and I wish that you would really be rulers, so that we also might reign with you. I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked, beaten and [we] wander from place to place! We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 2 Peter 1:19-2:9

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

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives. He delivered the righteous Lot who was very distressed by the lustful behavior of these wicked people; that righteous man was living among them and was tormented every day in his righteous soul when he saw and heard lawless deeds. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to hold the wicked for their punishment on 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 17:1-12

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.

After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul gave them his attention and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. He explained and showed that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and said, “This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ.”

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city officials, shouting, “These people who have turned the world upside down have also come here, and Jason has received them! All of them act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!” The multitude and the city officials were troubled when they heard these things. After receiving a bond from Jason and the others, they let them go.

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

Now, the Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 60:6, 9

A Psalm of David.

For You, O God, hear my prayers;

You give an inheritance

to those who fear Your Name.

So I will sing praise to Your Name forever and ever,

that I may perform my vows from day to day.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 12:22-37

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

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, “Can this be the son of David?” However, when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man can only cast out demons by {the authority of} Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!”

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

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

Make the tree good and its fruit [will be] good, or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt, for the tree is known by its fruit. You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? Indeed, words flow out of what fills the heart. The good man brings out good things out of his good treasure, and the evil man brings out evil things out of his evil treasure. I tell you that for every idle word that people speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 83:9, 5

A Psalm of David.

O Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer;

give ear, O God of Jacob.

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;

they will praise You forever and ever.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 5:34-48

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

But I tell you: do not swear at all! Neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not even swear by your head because you cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Whatever goes beyond these is from the evil one.

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

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you! Pray for those who mistreat you and

persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust. And so, if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore, be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 60:6, 9

A Psalm of David.

For You, O God, hear my prayers;

You give an inheritance

to those who fear Your Name.

So I will sing praise to Your Name forever and ever,

that I may perform my vows from day to day.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teacher!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Colossians 4:2-18

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

Persevere in prayer, even in vigils of thanksgiving. Pray for us as well, so that God may open to us a door for the word, [an opportunity] to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray also that I may reveal it as clearly as I should. Live wisely before those who are ‘outside’, and make the most of your time. Let your speech always be pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to properly answer those who have questions.

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, “if he comes to you, receive him”), and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, “Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it.”

Here is my greeting: Paul, with my own hand! Remember my chains... Grace be with you! Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 5:9-20

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

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

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:1-11

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

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There, he met a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race. He and his wife Priscilla had recently arrived from Italy because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and since he practiced the same trade (they were tent makers), he lived and worked with them. Every Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was dedicated to preaching, bearing witness to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Then, when the Jews opposed Paul and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and told them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!”

He departed and went into the house of a man named Titus Justus, a [Gentile] devoted to God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Now, Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his entire household; and many Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized. One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 68:33b, 34a, 31

A Psalm of David.

Seek God, and your soul shall live,

for the Lord hears the poor,

I will praise the Name of God with a song;

I will magnify Him with praise.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 6:27-38

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

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

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

*Therefore, be merciful,*

*even as your Father is also merciful.*

*Do not judge,*

*and you will not be judged.*

*Do not condemn,*

*and you will not be condemned.*

*Set free,*

*and you will be set free.*

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

### The Fifth Sunday of June or Ⲡⲁⲱⲛⲉ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 259.

## July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

### The First Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 19:7ab, 10

A Psalm of David.

Now I know that the Lord has saved His Christ;

He will hear Him from His holy heaven,

O Lord, save Your king,

and hear us when we call upon You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:1-6

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

Calling his twelve disciples together, Jesus gave them power and authority over all demons, and [power] to cure diseases. He sent them forth to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Jesus said to them, “Do not take anything for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave from there. Wherever people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them.”

They departed and went throughout the villages, preaching the Good News, and healing everywhere. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 30:24ab, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,

for the Lord preserves the faithful.

How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,

which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

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

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife - even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:12-21

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.

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.

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.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 88:8

A Psalm of David.

God is glorified in the council of saints,

great and awesome above all those around Him.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 10:1-20

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

After these things, the Lord also appointed seventy[-two] others and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place where he was about to go. Jesus said to them, “The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your ways, [but] be aware that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, a wallet, or sandals. Do not greet anyone on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ If a follower of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in that house, eating and drinking what they will give [you], for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever town you enter and if the people welcome you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you!’ But if you enter into any town and people there do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the Kingdom of God has come near to you!’ I tell you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for such a city.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But in the judgment, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. You, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to hades! Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The seventy[-two] returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!”

Jesus said to them, “I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Second Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 127:1, 5

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,

who walk in His ways.

May the Lord bless you from Zion,

And may you see the joys of Jerusalem

all the days of your life.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 16:1-18

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

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

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

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much. Whoever is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you with true riches? If you have not been faithful in what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other; or else he will be attached to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they scoffed at him. Jesus told them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of people, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were [proclaimed] until John [came]. Since then, the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. Yet, it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tiny stroke of a pen in the law to fall [out]. Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another [woman] commits adultery; and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 40:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;

the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

The Lord will guard him and give him life,

and will bless him on the earth.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 16:2-8

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Galatians 1:1-24

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

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other “Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own ageamong my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’. Now, regarding the things which I write to you, you can see that I am not lying before God. After that, I visited the districts of Syria and Cilicia. My face was still unknown to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ; they only heard, “The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy!” And they glorified God in me.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### Jude 14-25

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

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,*

*to execute judgment on all,*

*and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness*

*which they have done in an ungodly way,*

*and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:19-23

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.

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.”

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!”

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 118:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are the blameless in the way,

who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are they who search out His testimonies;

They will seek Him with their whole heart.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 18:1-9

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

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

Jesus called a little child to himself and set him in their midst. He then said, “Amen, I tell you that unless you change and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives such a little child in my Name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person that a huge millstone be hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! Such occasions are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom the occasion does come! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you! It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled rather than to have two hands or two feet and yet be cast into eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than to be cast into the Gehenna of fire having two eyes. Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 51:11cd, 10cd

A Psalm of David.

I will wait on Your Name,

for it is good in the sight of Your saints.

I hope in the mercy of God

Forever and unto the age of ages.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 14:7-15

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 134:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Name of the Lord,

O servants [of the Lord]; praise [Him],

you who stand in the house of the Lord,

in the courts of the house of our God.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Timothy 6:3-16

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

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness, such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith] in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 3:1-12

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 18:12-23

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

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

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

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

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills.” He then set sail from Ephesus.

After landing at Caesarea, he went to greet the Church, and then traveled down to Antioch. Having spent some time there, he departed and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, strengthening all the disciples.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 144:18

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways,

and holy in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him,

to all who call on Him in truth.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 9:10-17

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

When they returned, the apostles told him what things they had done.

Then, Jesus took them with him and they withdrew to a deserted place [which was part] of a city called Bethsaida.

But the crowd perceived this and followed him. Jesus welcomed them, spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and cured those who needed healing. Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place.”

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

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

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

### The Fourth Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 58:10b, 11a, 18a

A Psalm of David.

You, O God, are my protector.

My God—His mercy will go before me;

You are my helper, I will sing to You.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 7:1-10

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

When Jesus had finished speaking all that he wanted the people to hear, he entered into Capernaum. There was the servant of a certain centurion, a man highly valued by his master who was sick and at the point of death. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him presbyters of the Jews to ask him to come and save his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him saying, “This man deserves to have you do this because he loves our nation and [even] built our synagogue for us.” Jesus went along with them, but as he was approaching the house, the centurion sent word to him by some friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. Therefore, I did not even think myself worthy to come to you. But [only] say the word and my servant will be healed. For I am also a man placed under authority, and I have soldiers under my command. I tell this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him. Turning around, he said to the multitude who followed him, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel!” And the messengers, returning to the house, found that the servant who had been sick was [now] well. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 85:12, 13 (except end)

A Psalm of David.

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

And I will glorify Your Name forever,

for Your mercy towards me is great,

and You have rescued my soul.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teacher!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Philippians 1:27-2:11

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

[In the meantime], let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear this about your condition: that you stand firm in one spirit, striving with one soul for the faith of the Good News. Do not be terrified by your opponents. This will be for them evidence of destruction, but to you, of salvation from God. For the sake of Christ, you have been granted the privilege not only to believe in him but also to suffer on his behalf, and so you are engaged in the same battle which you saw me fight and that you hear that I am [still] fighting.

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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 19:11-22

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.

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

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

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

Now, after these things had ended and after passing through Macedonia and Achaia, Paul firmly decided to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After going there, I must also see Rome!”

Having sent into Macedonia two of his attendants, Timothy and Erastus, Paul stayed in Asia for a while longer.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 39:6abcd, 17cd

A Psalm of David.

Many are Your works, O Lord my God,

the wondrous things You have made.

There is no one who can be likened to You

in Your thoughts.

and let those who love Your salvation

say continually, “The Lord be magnified!”

Alleluia.

##### John 11:1-45

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

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha. It was that [same] Mary who had anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair and whose brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the sisters sent [word] to Jesus, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick!” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.” Now, Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. Yet, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed two days in the place where he was. After this, he said to the disciples, “Let us go into Judea again.”

The disciples told him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you are going there again?”

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Someone who walks in the day does not stumble because he sees the light of this world. But someone who walks in the night will stumbles because the light is not in him.” He said these things, and then added, “Our friend, Lazarus, has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may awake him out of sleep.”

At this, the disciples said, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

Now, Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in sleep. And so, Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe. But, let us go to him.”

Then Thomas (who is called Didymus) said to his fellow-disciples, “Let us go also, so that we may die with him.”

And so, when Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days already. Now, Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. Many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary stayed in the house.

Therefore, Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died! Even now, I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life! The one who believes in me, even though he dies, will live! Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She answered, “Yes, Lord! I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who comes into the world.”

When she had said this, she went away, and called her sister Mary in private, saying, “The Teacher is here, and [he] is calling you.”

When Mary heard this, she arose quickly and went to him. Now, Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was in the place where Martha had met him. Then the Jews who were with Mary in the house consoling her saw that she got up quickly and went out. They followed her because they thought, “she is going to the tomb to weep there.” Therefore, when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died!”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her [also] weeping, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They told him, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus wept.

At this, the Jews said, “See how much affection he had for Lazarus!” Some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the man who was blind have also kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus therefore, being again deeply moved, came to the tomb. Now, it was a cave, and a stone was placed against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days!”

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see God’s glory?”

And so, they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, “Father, I thank you that you have listened to me. I know that you always listen to me, but because of the multitude that stands around, I said this, so that they may believe that you sent me.” After saying this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Then, he who was dead came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth.

Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

As a result, many of the Jews who had come to Mary and had seen what Jesus had accomplished believed in him. Glory be to God forever.

### The Fifth Sunday of July or Ⲉⲡⲏⲡ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 259.

## August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

### The First Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 32:22

A Psalm of David.

May Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us,

as we hope in You.

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him,

on those who hope in His mercy.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 6:45-56

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

At once, he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself sent the crowd away. After he had taken leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray.

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on the shore. Seeing the disciples hard pressed in their rowing as the wind was against them, he came to them when it was about the fourth watch of the night. He walked on the sea and would have passed by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost and cried out. They all saw him and were troubled, but immediately, Jesus spoke with them, and said, “Rejoice! It is I! Do not be afraid!” He got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. They were utterly astonished and marveled greatly because they had not understood about the [miracle of the] loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

After crossing over, they landed at Gennesaret and moored the boat to the shore. When they came out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him. They swarmed that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard that he was. Wherever he entered, into villages, cities, or into the country, people laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him to be able to touch just the fringe of his garment; and as many as touched him were made well. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 32:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

Our soul waits for the Lord;

for He is our helper and protector;

For our heart rejoices in Him,

and we hope in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Our of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They cameand took hold ofhis feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

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

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife – even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 5:12-21

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.

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.

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 79:15, 16a

A Psalm of David.

O God of hosts, return us;

look from heaven, and behold,

and visit this vine,

which Your right hand has planted, and restore it.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 20:9-19

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

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

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

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

*‘The stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the chief cornerstone?’*

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

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

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

### The Second Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 118:145a, 146

A Psalm of David.

I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord;

I cry to You; save me,

and I will keep Your testimonies.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 18:9-17

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

Jesus also spoke this parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness and who despised everyone else.

“Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a Publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed by himself, like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men, dishonest, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I earn.’ But the tax collector, standing far aside, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he would beat his breast, saying: ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man, rather than the other, went down to his house justified. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

People were also bringing their infants to him, so that Jesus might touch them. But when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus summoned his disciples and told them, “Allow the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I tell you: whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will in no way enter into it.” Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 88:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth from generation to generation.

For You said, “Mercy shall be built up forever.

Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

Alleluia.

##### Mark 16:2-8

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Ephesians 6:1-23

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

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise: “that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”*

Fathers, do not drive your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, with deep loyalty, as to Christ. Do no serve only when eyes are on you in order to please human masters, but as servants of Christ. Accomplish God’s will from the heart; serve with a good attitude, as if you were serving the Lord and not men. Know that for whatever good we do, we shall receive the same in return from the Lord, no matter is we are slave or free.

You masters, do likewise to them: do not resort to threats but recognize that you both have the same Master in heaven, and there is no discrimination with him.

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

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

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

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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.

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 88:6, 16

A Psalm of David.

The heavens will confess Your wonders, O Lord,

indeed, Your truth in the Church of the Saints.

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout;

They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 5:27-39

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

After these things, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office. He said to him, “Follow me!”

Levi left everything, got up and began to follow Jesus. He made a great feast for him in his house. There was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining with them. The scribes and the Pharisees murmured against Jesus’ disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

They asked him, “Why do John’s disciples often fast and pray, like also the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink?”

Jesus said to them, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them. Then they will fast in those days.” He also told them a parable: “No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old garment, or else he will tear the new, and also the piece from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins, or else the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved. No man having drunk old wine immediately desires new, for he says, ‘The old is better!’” Glory be to God forever.

### The Third Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 5:8abc, 12ab

A Psalm of David.

But as for me, in Your abundant mercy

I will enter Your house;

I will bow down towards Your holy temple.

Let all who hope in You be glad;

they will rejoice forever.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 11:27-36

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

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”

But Jesus said, “Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 14:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle,

or who will live on Your holy mountain?

He who walks blamelessly, and works righteousness,

who speaks truth in his heart.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 16:17-20

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### 1 Peter 2:18-3:7

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

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.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint- heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 21:8-14

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 following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

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

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

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 27:2a, 7a, 6

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, the cry of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector;

blessed be the Lord, for He has heard

the voice of my supplication.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 3:22-35

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

The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and, “He is casting out demons by the [authority of the] prince of the demons!”

Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but has [come to] an end. But no one can enter into the house of a strong man to plunder it, unless he first binds the strong man. Then he will plunder his house. Amen, all human sins will be forgiven, and all the blasphemies ever uttered; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”. [He spoke these words] because they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

His mother and his brothers came and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A large group was sitting around him, and they told him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you.”

He answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, “Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother, and my sister, and mother.” Glory be to God forever.

### The Fourth Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ and Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 118:169a, 170b, 176

A Psalm of David.

Let my supplication come before You, O Lord;

deliver me according to Your sayings.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,

for I have not forgotten Your commandments.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 17:20-37

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 89:1, 2ab

A Psalm of David.

Lord, You have been our refuge

from generation to generation,

before the mountains came to be made

or the earth and the world were formed.

Alleluia.

##### John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teachere!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13

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

For this reason, we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth: the word of God. And it is at work in you who believe! For you, brethren, became imitators of the Churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews. They killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and they drove us out. Their conduct does not please God, and makes them the enemies of the entire human race as they want to prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. They are still bringing their sins to full measure, but the wrath is finally coming upon them.

Brethren, although we were deprived of your presence for a short time, (yet not in affection), we tried even harder to see you face to face with great eagerness, because we wanted to come to you. Certainly, I, Paul, wanted to come again and again - but Satan prevented us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes? For you are our glory and our joy!

Therefore, when we could not stand it any longer, we thought that it would be good to be alone in Athens and to send Timothy, our brother and God’s minister in the Good News of Christ, so that he might confirm and comfort you in your faith and so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you know that these must come our way. This is certain, and when we were with you, we told you in advance that we must suffer affliction. And this is what happened, as you know. For this reason, when I could not stand it any longer, I sent him so that I might know your faith, fearing that in some way the tempter may have tempted you, so that our labor would have been in vain. But Timothy came back from his visit to you and brought us glad news of your faith and love. He mentioned your abiding good memories of us as well as your longing to see us even as we also long to see you. Through all this, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our distress and affliction through your faith. Now we have revived, since you stand fast in the Lord! What thanksgiving can we give back to God for you, for all the joy you give us to experience before our God. Yes, night and day, I pray intensely so that we may see you again and make perfect what is lacking in your faith. Now, may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. May the Lord grant you to increase and overflow in love one for each other and for everyone, even as we also do for you. And may he establish your hearts, blameless in holiness before our God and Father even to end, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

##### James 4:7-5:5

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

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

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

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’ content as in a day of slaughter.

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 11:19-30

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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

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

#### The Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 88:12, 13a, 14b

A Psalm of David.

The heavens belong to You, and the earth is Yours;

You founded the world and all that is in it.

You created the north and the seas;

let Your hand be strong, let Your right hand be exalted.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 13:3-37

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

As he sat on the Mount of Olives facing the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him in private, “Tell us, when will these things take place? What is the sign that these things are all about to be fulfilled?”

Then Jesus began to tell them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my Name, saying: ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Those things must take place, but the end is not [there] yet. Indeed, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom! There will be earthquakes in various places, as well as famines and troubles. These things are [only] the beginning of birth pains.

But be on your guard, for people will hand you over to the courts. You will be beaten in the synagogues, you will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. When they take you away and arrest you, do not worry in advance. Do not think ahead about what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his [own] child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name’s sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. But when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing where it should not stand (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains. Then whoever is on the housetop should not go down or enter in to take anything out of the house. He who is in the field should not come back to take his cloak. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days! Pray that your flight will not be in the winter. For in those days, there will be oppression such as there has not been since the beginning of God’s creation until now, and never will be. If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect whom he chose, he has shortened the days. Then, if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, there!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise, and they will show signs and wonders in order to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. You, therefore, must be on your guard.

Behold, I have told you all things beforehand. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then, people will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. After that, he will send out his angels and [they] will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

Learn this parable from the fig tree. When the branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near! Likewise, when you see these things taking place, know that it is near, at the doors! Amen, I tell you: this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But no one knows that day or that hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

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

### The Fifth Sunday of August or Ⲙⲉⲥⲟⲣⲏ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Ⲡⲁϣⲁⲛⲥ, page 259.

### The Fifth Sunday of August or The Sunday of Ⲕⲟⲩϫⲓ ⲛ̀ⲁ̀ⲃⲟⲧ (The Little Month)

#### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

##### Psalm 40:14, 13 half of a and b

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel

from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen! Amen!

You have supported me,

and established me before You forever.

Alleluia.

##### Luke 21:12-33

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

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my Name’s sake. It will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or contradict. You will be handed over even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name’s sake, yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will acquire your lives.

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is at hand. Then, let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains! Let those who are in the midst of her depart! Let those who are in the countryside not enter in [the city]. For these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who nurse infants in those days! For there will be great distress in the land, and wrath to this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and will be taken away as captives into all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth, the anxiety of nations, perplexed over the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear, apprehensive what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see it and know on your own that the summer is already near. Likewise, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I tell you: this generation will not pass away until all [these] things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Glory be to God forever.

#### The Morning or Prime Gospel

##### Psalm 101:13, 24b, 25a

A Psalm of David.

But You, O Lord, remain forever,

and Your remembrance is from generation to generations.

Tell me how few my days are;

Do not take me away in the midst of my days.

Alleluia.

##### Mark 13:32-37

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

But no one knows that day or that hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

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

#### The Pauline Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Praxis

##### Acts 2:14-21

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, 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 Liturgy Gospel

##### Psalm 101:25b, 26, 27a

A Psalm of David.

Your years are throughout all generations.

In the beginning, O Lord, You founded the earth,

and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You will remain.

Alleluia.

##### Matthew 24:3-35

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

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him in private, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus answered them, “Be careful not to be led astray! For many will come in my Name, saying: ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many people astray. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Do not be troubled; all of this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are [only] the beginning of the birth pains. Then, they will deliver you up to oppression and they will kill you. You will be hated by all the nations for my Name’s sake. Many will stumble and will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will arise and they will lead many astray. Because wickedness will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation whichwasspoken about by the prophet Daniel standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop should not [even] go down to carry out the things that are in the house. The one who is in the field should not [even] return to get his clothes. But woe to those who are with child and to nursing mothers in those days! Pray that your flight will not be in the winter or a Sabbath day. For then, there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, and such as will never be again. Unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.

Then, if any one tells you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There,’ do not believe it! For false messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will show great signs and wonders in order to lead many astray, and if possible, even the elect.

Behold, I have told you this in advance. If therefore people tell you, ‘Behold, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or ‘Behold, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it! For as the lightning flashes from the east and is seen even to the west, this is how the coming of the Son of Man will be.

For wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together. But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, the powers of the heavens will be shaken; and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Now, learn this parable from the fig tree. When its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near. Likewise, when you see all these things, know that the time is near, even at the doors. Amen, I tell you that this generation will not pass away, until all these things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Glory be to God forever.

1. [JS] or “reveal Your face”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)