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#### ADVENT SUNDAY [YEAR B]

***Introduction***

*On this, the first Sunday of Advent, we remember the time when the people of Israel were waiting for a saviour. We are invited to join them in their journey of discovery.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading**  Isaiah 64. 1-9

The prophet Isaiah pleads for God to come down among his people. He compares God's goodness with our human imperfection: our hope lies in God's love and compassion for us.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9

Paul tells us of his confidence in the faithful God who gives us his grace and strength in all our needs. God knows the meaning of our life, and he will give us all the resources we need to face whatever lies ahead of us.

**Gospel** Mark 13. 24-37

Jesus frequently reminded his followers that they needed to be prepared for the end of the world. We too need to hear his message and to keep ourselves alert for whatever lies ahead.

***Advent Wreath Prayers* –** *from**The Promise of His Glory* p137

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors,

to you be praise and glory for ever!

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith

and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call

and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,

a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for you are our light and our salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

God of Abraham and Sarah,

and all the patriarchs of old,

you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,

Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth

to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit

to make his home among us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the Light who is coming into the world.

# Lord Jesus, Light of the world,

**born in David’s city of Bethlehem,**

**born like him to be our king:**

**Be born in our hearts this Christmastide,**

**be king of our lives today.**

***or***

**Blessing the Advent Wreath**: (please remain standing) – Order of St Benedict leaflet [[1]](#footnote-1)

The blessing may take place on the Saturday evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

Priest: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Upon those who dwelt in the land of darkness a light has shone.

Priest: Today we begin to prepare, through prayer and works of charity, for the coming of the Lord. Let us ask God’s blessing upon this Advent stand which we will use to mark the days until his coming.

Father of all creation and Lord of all lights, bless this Advent stand. Be present among us as we come together to celebrate in Scripture, prayer and sacrament the coming of Christ. May our hearts and minds reflect the lights of these candles, that Christmas will find us joyfully ready to receive our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***and / or [[2]](#footnote-2)***

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**: *(please remain standing)*

Priest: The night is far spent; the day draws near.

All: The Light of the Lord has dawned, shattering the darkness.

**The Word of God** *(John 1. 1-5, 14, 16)*

Reader: In the beginning was the Word;

the Word was in God’s presence,

and the Word was God.

He was present to God in the beginning.

Through him all things came into being,

and apart from him nothing came to be.

Whatever came to be in him, found life,

life for the light of men and women.

The light shines on in darkness,

a darkness that did not overcome it…

The Word became flesh

and made his dwelling among us,

and we have seen his glory:

The glory of an only Son coming from the Father

filled with enduring love…

Of his fullness

we have all had a share –

love following upon love. [[3]](#footnote-3)

A pause for reflection

**The (Advent Wreath) Prayers**

Leader: As we await the coming of Jesus, the Light and Word of God, let us join our hearts in prayer:

That prayers and works of charity will be the centre of our Christmas preparations, we pray to the Lord.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: That all our Christmas preparations will proclaim the joy of the Saviour, we pray to the Lord.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: That this season will be the beginning of an everlasting season of peace among all people, we pray to the Lord.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: That all our Christmas preparations will proclaim the joy of the Saviour, we pray to the Lord.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: As one family, let us now pray to our heavenly Father in the words that Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father…

Leader: Father, we await the dawning of your Light, Jesus Christ. May his coming dispel the darkness of selfishness and greed and show us the way to your peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Light to the world. **Amen**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **Amen**

***or***

**Advent 1 – the Advent Hope**

Priest: Jesus said, ‘Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.’

All: Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus

The first candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory

‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.

Pain and sorrow,

tears and sadness,

changed for gladness

on that Day.

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***Invitation to Confession***

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness; and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

***or***

The beginning of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. So that we may start it with a clean slate, let us ask God to make us aware of our sin and to seek and receive his forgiveness.  *(RCL B1)*

***Collect***

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ

came to visit us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *(Advent 1)*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 64. 1–9)*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 80. 1–7, 16–18

***REFRAIN***  **[Restore us, O God of hosts;]**

**Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and come to help us. ***Refrain***

[ 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance

and we shall be saved. ]

4 O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people? ***Refrain***

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ***Refrain***

[ 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance

and we shall be saved. ]

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name. ***Refrain***

[18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance

and we shall be saved. ]

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor 1. 3–9)*

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 13. 24–37)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**INTERCESSIONS** *(two forms of responsorial intercessions follow)*

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the broken hearted, restore the sick, and raise up the fallen

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God’s coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

That with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,

let us pray to the Lord

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray

to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*(silence is kept)*

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost;

so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work;

for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever. **Amen**

*[Times and Seasons p. 37]*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and Judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations:

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with *[N and ]* all your saints and angels

we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*(silence is kept)*

Come Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

*[Times and Seasons p. 36]*

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us; to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing and in confidence may stand before him. Therefore with angels and …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promises will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promises will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***Post communion prayer***

O Lord our God,

make us watchful and keep us faithful

as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;

that, when he shall appear,

he may not find us sleeping in sin

but active in his service

and joyful in his praise;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

***or***

May the God of creation reign in your lives.

May Christ our King reign in your hearts and minds.

May the Spirit of God reign over all your days.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen**

#### ADVENT 2 [YEAR B]

*Today, we hear of the great blessings that the coming of the Lord brings. This is the message and purpose of Advent: prepare a way for the Lord in the world and in your own life; receive him into your hearts.*

***Hymns:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 40: 1-11

At a time when the people were exiled from the Promised Land, Isaiah looks forward to the day when a messenger will come with news of great joy: God is here and will lead his people to freedom and safety.

**Second Reading** 2 Peter 3: 8-15

God does not see time as we do: for him, a thousand years is like twenty four hours. He has promised that he will come again, and he will: this time of waiting is an opportunity for us to make peace with God, with other people and with ourselves.

**Gospel** Mark 1: 1-8

John the Baptist announces the good news: the Lord is coming. He begins to prepare the people by calling for a change of heart that their sins may be forgiven.

***Advent Wreath Prayers* –** *from**The Promise of His Glory* p137-8

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,

to you be praise and glory for ever!

Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets

but in our days you speak through your Son

whom you have appointed the heir of all things.

Grant us, your people, to walk in his light

that we may be found ready and watching

when he comes again in glory and judgement;

for you are our light and our salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,

you spoke to the prophets of old

of a Saviour who would bring peace.

You helped them to spread the joyful message

of his coming kingdom.

Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

to share with those around us

the good news of your power and love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the Light who is coming into the world.

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the world,

the prophets said you would bring peace

and save your people in trouble.

Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide

and show all the world God’s love.

***or***

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**: *(please remain standing) – Order of St Benedict leaflet [[4]](#footnote-4)*

Priest: The glory of the Lord will be revealed.

All: And all will see the saving power of our God.

**The Word of God** *(Mark 1. 2-6)*

Reader: In Isaiah the prophet it is written:

“I send my messenger before you

to prepare your way:

A herald’s voice in the desert, crying,

‘Make ready the way of the Lord,

clear him a straight path.’”

Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins. All the Judean countryside and the people of Jerusalem went out to him in great numbers. They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, and wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was grasshoppers and wild honey. The theme of his preaching was: “One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” [[5]](#footnote-5)

A pause for reflection

**The (Advent Wreath) Prayers**

Leader: The Lord is the joy of the humble, the treasure of the poor. And so, we pray::

That we may embrace the Gospel spirit of simplicity and charity, we pray to the Lord..

All: Bless us with your Spirit, O Lord.

Leader: That, like John the Baptizer, we may give witness to the Messiah, we pray to the Lord.

All: Bless us with your Spirit, O Lord.

Leader: That the Messiah, who healed the blind and lame, will bless the sick, the suffering and the dying, we pray to the Lord.

All: Bless us with your Spirit, O Lord.

Leader: Jesus taught us to God “Father”. And so, as one family, let us pray together:

All: Our Father…

Leader: Father, the day of the Messiah’s coming draws near. Make us a people of compassion and forgiveness. May all that we do and say make ready the way of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord: the God of the humble and the help of the oppressed, the support of the weak and the refuge of the forsaken, the Saviour of the despairing. To the lord be eternal glory!

***or***

**Advent 2 – the Prophets**

Priest: Jesus said, ‘Do not think I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.’

All: Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus

The second candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory

‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.

Pain and sorrow,

tears and sadness,

changed for gladness

on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying,

making pathways clear;

glimpsing glory, self-denying,

calling all to hear.

Through their message –

challenged, shaken –

hearts awaken:

God is near!

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***Invitation to Confession***

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness; and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

***or***

God is always ready to console us and wipe away our sins. With childlike trust, let us ask together for his mercy.

***Collect***

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

and come among us,

and with great might succour us;

that whereas, through our sins and wickedness

we are grievously hindered

in running the race that is set before us;

your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Advent 2**)*

***or continuous form:***

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us; your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 40. 1–11)*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13

***REFRAIN***  **Show us your mercy, O Lord,**

**and grant us your salvation.**

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,

you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people

and blotted out all their sins. ***Refrain***

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,

for he is speaking peace to his faithful people

and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land. ***Refrain***

10 Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth,

and righteousness shall look down from heaven. ***Refrain***

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him,

and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Peter** *(2 Pet 3. 8–15a)*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 1. 1-8)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us; to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing and in confidence may stand before him.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in his coming as man the day of our deliverance has dawned; and through him you will make all things new, as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour. Therefore with angels and archangels …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promises will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promises will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***Post communion prayer***

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the world

and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again,

we may be ready to greet him

with joyful love and firm faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

scatter the darkness from before your path

and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

May the God of creation reign in your lives.

May Christ our King reign in your hearts and minds.

May the Spirit of God reign over all your days.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen**

#### ADVENT 3 [YEAR B]

*In today's readings the Church asks us to pray constantly, to be joyful and to give thanks to God. We are to open our hearts and Christ will enter into them.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah: 61:1-4.8-11

Isaiah tells of the good news of God's deliverance: there will be release for all who are captive, there will be joy and gladness in place of sadness. He speaks of our whole beings responding to God's goodness.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

As Advent continues, we hear Paul telling us to rejoice always, to pray constantly and to give thanks to God, whatever our circumstances. He reminds us of God's faithfulness: he will not let us down.

**Gospel**  John 1:6-8,19-28

Many people who heard John the Baptist thought that he was the Christ. But he was not the Christ: he was the one who came to prepare the way for the Christ who is already among them, unseen, unnoticed.

***Advent Wreath Prayers* –** *The Promise of His Glory* p138

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:

to you be praise and glory for ever!

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth

as a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,

and so be led to witness to him

who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,

Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,

you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in their old age

a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,

prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,

and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,

to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the Light who is coming into the world.

# Lord Jesus, Light of the world,

**John told the people to prepare,**

**for you were very near.**

**As Christmas grows closer day by day,**

**help us to be ready to welcome you now.**

***or***

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**: *(please remain standing) – Order of St Benedict leaflet [[6]](#footnote-6)*

Priest: Rejoice in the Lord always! The Lord is near!

All: Rejoice! He comes with peace and with justice!

**The Word of God** *(Philippians 4. 4-9)*

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord Always! I say it again: Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and petitions full of gratitude. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.

Finally … your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

A pause for reflection

**The (Advent Wreath) Prayers**

Leader: With joy and gratitude, let us pray to the Lord:

That our Christmas preparations will proclaim the joy of the Saviour, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the gifts we exchange this Christmas will include the gifts of love and understanding, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That God will bless those who will be receiving our Christmas cards and greetings in the days ahead, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us now offer the prayer that Jesus himself taught his friends:

All: Our Father…

Leader: Father of all, so great is your love for us that you gave us the gift of your Son. He healed our infirmities, forgave our shortcomings, and showed us the way to you. May we always know the joy and hope of his presence among us. We make this prayer in the in the name of Jesus, our Lord and brother. **Amen**

Leader: May the peace of God reign in our hearts. In all our words and actions let us give thanks to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***or***

**Advent 3 – John the Baptist**

Priest: Jesus said, ‘No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

All: Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory

‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.

Pain and sorrow,

tears and sadness,

changed for gladness

on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching

and by water poured,

brought to those who heard his teaching

news of hope restored:

‘Keep your vision

strong and steady,

and be ready

for the Lord.’

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***Invitation to Confession***

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness; and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

***or***

Let us acknowledge our reluctance to pray as we ought, and our failure to give thanks for all God's gifts to us. Let us seek God's forgiveness and a new start.  *(RCL B1)*

***Collect***

O Lord Jesus Christ,

who at your first coming sent your messenger

to prepare the way for you:

grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries

may likewise so prepare and make ready your way

by turning the hearts of the disobedient

to the wisdom of the just,

that at your second coming to judge the world

we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;

for you are alive and reign with the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Advent 3)*

***or continuous form:***

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare the way for you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Advent 3)*

**The Word This Week**

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as a witness to speak for the light, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the anointed one (Messiah in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat – Mary’s song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you. This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

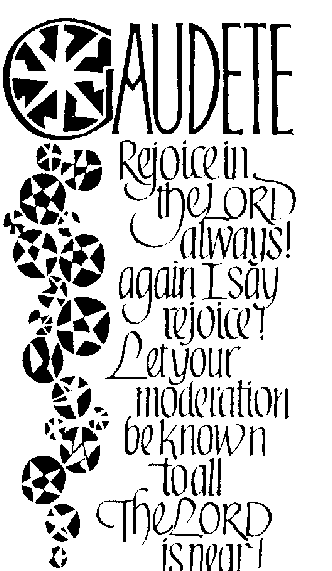
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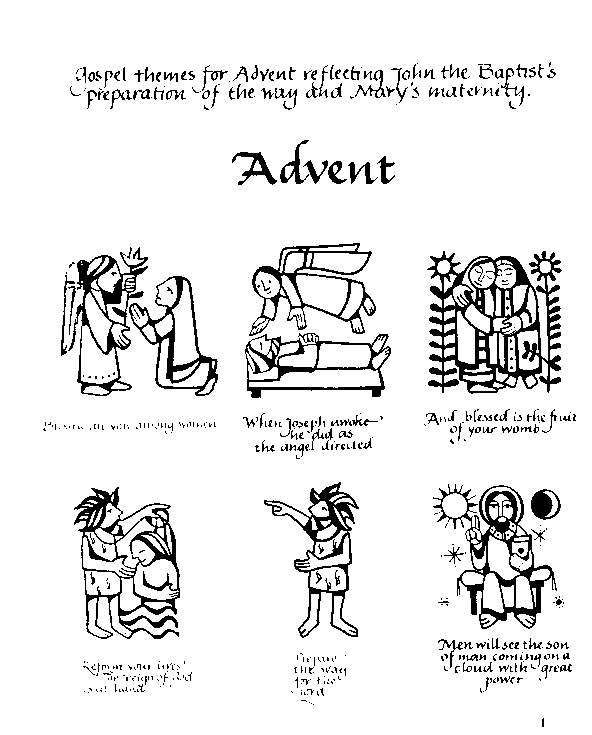
**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11.**

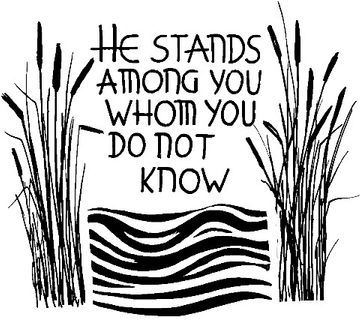
This famous passage is the one Jesus applies to himself in the synagogue at Nazareth: in it we hear who the Messiah is, and what he brings. This Sunday is called 'Gaudete' Sunday - 'Rejoice' - because we are glad to hear about the One who is coming, and we rejoice that he comes. Your tone throughout should be glad and enthusiastic at the good things the Messiah brings, and especially in the second half should conjure up the picture of the glory and beauty of the One who Comes. When a reading is written out in sense-lines (as this one is), it is poetry; this demands a style of reading which is more reflective, and more aware of the images presented.  Similarly, when a reading has distinct paragraphs (as here), you should use the pauses that such spacing suggests. So here, the final paragraph (For as the earth...) is a new image, and you should pause before announcing it, so that the minds of your listeners have a moment to adjust to a new idea. Whenever there is a analogy (...as a garden...so...) make sure that each half is clear and distinct. Think in terms of the pictures, and the reading will be easier to read and understand.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.**

Paul is being brief and to the point today. So you can take your time, and announce each of his points clearly. First we have things to do - a list; it is good to pause slightly after each item, to allow people to slot it into their understanding. Then the next sentence is a prayer for the people (ay the God of peace...) Emphasise the words perfect and holy, then pause. Then emphasise safe and blameless, but leading on to the central phrase for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then a slightly longer pause, before the wonderful final sentence: punch out the final words with great confidence: he will not fail you. Since this is such a short reading, read it with particular care and emphasis, always remembering that it is a list of ideas and concepts, and so will demand spaces throughout for the congregation to assimilate what is being said to them.







**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 61. 1–4, 8–11)*

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM OR CANTICLE**

#### *either*

#### Psalm 126

***REFRAIN***  **The Lord has done great things for us**

**[and we are glad indeed].**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***Refrain***

3 Then they said among the nations,

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

4 The Lord has done great things for us,

and we are glad indeed. ***Refrain***

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord

like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears

will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. ***Refrain***

***or***

**Luke 1. 46b – 55**

***REFRAIN***  **My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

46 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

47 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

48 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;

from this day all generations will call me blessèd.

49 The Almighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name. ***Refrain***

50 He has mercy on those who fear him

in every generation.

51 He has shown the strength of his arm;

he has scattered the proud in their conceit. ***Refrain***

52 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

and has lifted up the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things

and the rich he has sent away empty. ***Refrain***

54 He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

55 The promise he made to our forebears:

to Abraham and his children for ever. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians***(1 Thess 5. 16–24)*

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 1. 6–8, 19–28)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us; to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing and in confidence may stand before him.

or

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour.  *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

***(from the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December)***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promises will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promises will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***(from 17 December until Christmas Eve)***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,

whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory,

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;

kindle in us the fire of your Spirit

that when your Christ comes again

we may shine as lights before his face;

who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

***or***

May the God of creation reign in your lives.

May Christ our King reign in your hearts and minds.

May the Spirit of God reign over all your days.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen**

#### ADVENT 4 [YEAR B]

***Introduction***

*Today's readings show how God always fulfils his promises when, like Mary, we allow God to work through us.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

God reminds King David of his faithfulness to him since the day he called him to be king. He promises his people peace and security which will last forever.

**Second Reading** Romans 16:25-27

We can count on God's strength to help us in all things to be obedient to him and to follow his ways. Let us always give the glory to him, the only God.

**Gospel** Luke 1:26-38

Because of Mary's 'yes' to God, God is able to fulfil the promise that he made to David: Mary conceives God's own Son who will rule over God's people forever.

***Advent Wreath Prayers* –** *The Promise of His Glory* p139

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:

to you be praise and glory for ever!

Your light has shone in our darkened world

through the child-bearing of blessèd Nary;

grant that we who have seen your glory

may daily be renewed in your image

and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,

who is Lord and Saviour of all.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,

the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary

that she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid,

she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you,

to share like her in your great work

of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the Light who is coming into the world.

# Lord Jesus, Light of the world,

**blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;**

**blessed is Mary your mother and ours.**

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;**

**and bless us your children who long for your coming.**

***or***

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**: *(please remain standing) – Order of St Benedict leaflet [[7]](#footnote-7)*

Priest: Like the sun in the morning sky, the Saviour will dawn

All: Like rain on the meadows, he will descend to be born of Mary.

**The Word of God** *(Luke 1. 26-38)*

Reader: In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: "Rejoice, O highly favoured daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her: "Do not fear, Mary. You have found favour with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name of Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I do not know man?" The angel answered her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age; she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God." Mary said: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." With that the angel left her.

A pause for reflection

**The (Advent Wreath) Prayers**

Leader: As we await the miracle of Bethlehem, let us offer our prayers in hope to the Lord who comes:

That we may accept the Father’s invitation to live in Christ just as Mary accepted God’s call to be the mother of the Messiah, we pray to the Lord:

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Leader: That we may respond in loving concern to those in need as did Mary in her care of Elizabeth, we pray to the Lord:

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Leader: That our joy may be to serve the Lord by serving one another, we pray to the Lord:

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Leader: Jesus, the Messiah, revealed to us the love of the Father. And so we pray:

All: Our Father…

Leader: Father of light, you have fulfilled your promise of old: the Virgin has given birth to your Son, Emmanuel. As he shared our life in this world, may we share his life in your kingdom to come. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. **Amen**

Leader: May the Lord of peace himself give us peace in all time and in every way! May the Lord be with us all! **Amen**

***or***

**Advent 4 – Mary**

Priest: Jesus said, ‘Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.’

All: I am the servant of the Lord.

Let it be to me according to his word.

The fourth candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory

‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.

Pain and sorrow,

tears and sadness,

changed for gladness

on that Day.

Mary’s gift, beyond all telling,

was to give Christ room.

She gave God a human dwelling

in a mother’s womb.

Who could guess

the final story?

- cross and glory;

empty tomb!

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***Invitation to Confession***

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness; and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

***or***

God is the one who gives us the strength and grace to live as his obedient servants. Let us ask him to renew his strength in us as we come before him in humble confession.  *(RCL B1)*

***Collect***

God our Redeemer,

who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary

to be the mother of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,

so we may be ready to greet him

when he comes again as our judge;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Advent 4)*

***or continuous form:***

God our Redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

#### A reading from the second book of Samuel *(2 Sam 7. 1–11, 16)*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**CANTICLE OR PSALM**

***either***

**Luke 1.46b–55**

***REFRAIN***  **My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

46 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

47 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

48 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant,

from this day all generations will call me blessèd.

49 The Almighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name. ***Refrain***

50 He has mercy on those who fear him

in every generation.

51 He has shown the strength of his arm,

he has scattered the proud in their conceit. ***Refrain***

52 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

and has lifted up the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things

and the rich he has sent away empty. ***Refrain***

54 He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

55 The promise he made to our forebears:

to Abraham and his children for ever. ***Refrain***

***or***

**Psalm 89.1–4, 19–26**

***REFRAIN***  **Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing.**

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. ***Refrain***

3 ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 “I will establish your line for ever,

and preserve your throne for all generations.”’ ***Refrain***

19 You spoke once in a vision

and said to your faithful people:

‘I have set the crown upon a warrior

and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant;

with my holy oil have I anointed him. ***Refrain***

21 My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him,

nor the wicked bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him. ***Refrain***

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him,

and he shall be victorious through my name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend

from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, “You are my Father,

my God and the rock of my salvation.”’ ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

#### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans *(Rom 16. 25–27)*

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Lk 1. 26–38)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us; to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing and in confidence may stand before him.

And now we give you thanks because in choosing the blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son you have exalted the humble and meek. Your angel hailed her as most highly favoured; with all generations we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name. *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

***(from 17 December until Christmas Eve)***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,

whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory,

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Heavenly Father,

who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary

to be the mother of the promised saviour:

fill us your servants with your grace,

that in all things we may embrace your holy will

and with her rejoice in your salvation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

scatter the darkness from before your path,

and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**

***or***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE / DAY**

***Hymns:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**: *(please remain standing) – Order of St Benedict leaflet [[8]](#footnote-8)*

Priest: Today you will know that the Lord is coming

All: And in the morning we shall see his glory.

**The Word of God** *(Isaiah 9. 1-6) (an awful translation!)*

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,

As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,

as men make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder,

And the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood,

will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;

upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonderful Counsellor, God-Hero,

Father forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful.

From David’s throne, and over his kingdom,

which he confirms and sustains.

By judgement and justice, both now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

A pause for reflection

**The (Advent Wreath) Prayers**

Leader: The day of the Lord is near; in hope and joy let us make our prayers to him::

That we may be blessed with the spirit of simplicity that marked the birth of Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

All: Child of Bethlehem, bless us with your peace.

Leader: That we may be blessed with the spirit of joy that marked the teachings of Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

All: Child of Bethlehem, bless us with your peace.

Leader: That we may be blessed with the spirit of compassion that marked the healing works of Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

All: Child of Bethlehem, bless us with your peace.

Leader: Jesus, the Messiah, revealed to the world the love of the Father. And so we can pray together:

All: Our Father…

Leader: Father of all goodness, we await the dawning of your Light to the world, Jesus Christ. With gratitude, we remember his compassion and love as he walked among us. May his life with us and for us bring us to the new life of his resurrection. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. **Amen**

Leader: May God be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ! To him be glory and praise forever! **Amen**

***or***

**Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – Jesus**

Priest: Joy to the world!

All: The Lord has come!

The central candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story

on this Christmas Day,

Those who waited for God’s glory:

they prepared the way.

Christ is with us:

loving, giving,

in us living,

here today!

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**CHRISTMAS DAY**

25 December

*Any of the sets of readings following may be used on the evening of Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day.* ***Set III should be used at some service*** *during the celebration.*

CHRISTMAS, SETS I, II, III YEARS A B C

Click to choose:

[Set I](#ChristmasDaysetIN) (normally used for Christmas morning)

[Set II](#ChristmasDaysetIIN)

[Set III](#ChristmasDaysetIIIN) (normally used for Christmas midnight)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY (Set I) [YEARS A, B and C] (At St Andrew’s – Christmas morning)

*Come, let us go to Bethlehem and see the child who is God's creative love made flesh; and when we have found him, let us adore him, giving him the gift of our hearts and lives. (RCL B1)*

NB. Material from Times and Seasons added only to Set III at present

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 9: 2-7

The prophet speaks of a child who is born, who will redeem the world for ever, with honesty and justice. God has rescued his people from death.

**Second Reading** Titus 2: 11-14

God has shown us how kind he is by sending his Son to save us from everything that is evil. Jesus taught us how to live in a way that pleases God.

**Gospel** Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

Great events in Bethlehem are heralded by hosts of angels coming down from heaven and proclaiming the incredible news of God himself being born as a human. The news comes first to a group of humble shepherds as they looked after their sheep.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 9. 2–7)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 148**

***REFRAIN***  **Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

1 Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars. ***Refrain***

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;

for he commanded and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away. ***Refrain***

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing his will;

9 Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars; ***Refrain***

10 Wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and winged birds;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens,

old and young together. ***Refrain***

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name only is exalted,

his splendour is over earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus** *(Tit 2 .11–14)*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

***(Short or long reading)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(Lk 2. 1–14, (15–20))*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ [ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ]

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Invitation to Confession***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

***or:***

The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus” for he will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith *(Patterns)*

***or:***

Jesus Christ - God's messenger of peace - came to redeem his people from their sins. Let us therefore confess our sin to him that he might reconcile us to the Father *(RCL B1)*

***Collect (if used during Christmas Day)***

Almighty God,

you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him

and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that we, who have been born again

and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Christmas Day I)* use Christmas am

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Collect (if used at Christmas midnight)***

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness

of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the

revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Christmas Day (midnight)*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Unto us a boy is born; unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and …

***or:***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer (to be used during Christmas Day)***

God our Father,

whose Word has come among us

in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

may the light of faith illumine our hearts

and shine in our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or Post communion prayer (if used at Christmas midnight)***

God our Father,

in this night you have made known to us again

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him

until the day dawns

and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing …

***or***

Priest: Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will:

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

#### CHRISTMAS DAY (Set II) [YEARS A, B and C]

*Come, let us go to Bethlehem and see the child who is God's creative love made flesh; and when we have found him, let us adore him, giving him the gift of our hearts and lives. (RCL B1)*

NB. Material from Times and Seasons added only to Set III at present

Today's Readings (highlighted needs amending)

**First Reading** Isaiah 62: 6-12

The prophet speaks of a child who is born, who will redeem the world for ever, with honesty and justice. God has rescued his people from death.

**Second Reading** Titus 3: 4-7

God has shown us how kind he is by sending his Son to save us from everything that is evil. Jesus taught us how to live in a way that pleases God.

**Gospel** Luke 2: 1-20

Great events in Bethlehem are heralded by hosts of angels coming down from heaven and proclaiming the incredible news of God himself being born as a human. The news comes first to a group of humble shepherds as they looked after their sheep.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 62 .6–12)*

Thus says the Lord: Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, ‘See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.’ They shall be called, ‘The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord’; and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 97**

***REFRAIN***  **Zion hears and is glad**

**and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him,

righteousness and justice

are the foundations of his throne. ***Refrain***

3 A fire goes before him

and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world;

the earth sees it and is afraid. ***Refrain***

5 The mountains melt like wax

at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness,

and all the peoples see his glory. ***Refrain***

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images

and delight in false gods!

Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice,

because of your judgements, O Lord. ***Refrain***

9 For you are the Lord: most high over all the earth;

you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil;

he preserves the lives of his saints

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. ***Refrain***

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous,

and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,

and give thanks to his holy name. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus** *(Tit 3. 4–7)*

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

***(Short or long reading)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(Lk 2. (1–7), 8–20)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

[ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ] In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Invitation to Confession***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

***or:***

The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus” for he will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith *(Patterns)*

***or:***

Jesus Christ - God's messenger of peace - came to redeem his people from their sins. Let us therefore confess our sin to him that he might reconcile us to the Father *(RCL B1)*

***Collect (if used during Christmas Day)***

Almighty God,

you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him

and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that we, who have been born again

and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Christmas Day II)* use Xmas am

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Collect (if used at Christmas midnight)***

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness

of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the

revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Christmas Day (midnight)*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Unto us a boy is born; unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and …

***or:***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer (to be used during Christmas Day)***

God our Father,

whose Word has come among us

in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

may the light of faith illumine our hearts

and shine in our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or Post communion prayer (if used at Christmas midnight)***

God our Father,

in this night you have made known to us again

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him

until the day dawns

and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing …

***or***

Priest: Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will:

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

#### CHRISTMAS DAY (Set III) [YEARS A, B and C] (At St Andrew’s – Midnight)

*Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who came into our world in the silence and the darkness of night. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, let us draw near to see this child and to adore him. (RCL B1)*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah prophesies the coming of God's messenger - one who will announce peace, proclaim God's kingdom and redeem his people.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

In olden days God spoke to his people through many kinds of prophecies, but now he speaks to us by giving us his Son.

**Gospel** John 1:1-14

In Jesus Christ God's message and messenger are one. He is the eternal Word dwelling here in our midst.

***Invitation to Confession***

Invitation to confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

***or:***

The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus” for he will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith *(Patterns)*

***or:***

Jesus Christ - God's messenger of peace - came to redeem his people from their sins. Let us therefore confess our sin to him that he might reconcile us to the Father *(RCL B1)*

***Collect (if used at Christmas midnight)***

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the

revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Christmas Day (midnight)*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Collect (if used during Christmas Day)***

Almighty God,

you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him

and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that we, who have been born again

and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(Christmas Day III)* use Christmas am

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa. 52. 7–10)*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 98**

***REFRAIN***  **All the ends of the earth have seen**

**the victory of our God.**

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvellous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm

has he won for himself the victory. ***Refrain***

3 The Lord has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown

in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness

to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen

the victory of our God. ***Refrain***

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the Lord. ***Refrain***

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,

the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,

when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world,

and the peoples with equity. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

***(Short or long reading - normally the shorter form)***

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 1. 1–4, (5–12))*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. [ For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be his Father, and he will be my Son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’ Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.’ But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’ And, ‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.’ ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

***(Short or long reading)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 1. 1–14)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Intercessions (variation on ? extended version of POHG)***

Priest: Let us give glory to God on high for his goodness, and pray for peace and goodwill on earth.

All kneel

Leader: Father, in this holy night, your Son our Saviour was born as a child in a stable. Hear us as we pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who celebrate with us this momentous day. Help us to share the good news with our neighbours and friends, and bring your light to the world.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless tonight; support refugees and those who have fled their homelands, and be with those whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, in this holy night, your Son came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in our world.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are ill at this time, including ( … ) and any others known to us personally.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven. Keep in safety all those who have passed through death and now share in eternal life, including ( … )

Hear us as we remember those dear to us (pause) and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, remembering especially ( …). May they all know the fullness and joy of eternal life.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Andrew and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Intercessions (from Times and Seasons p81)***

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord

All kneel

Leader: Father, [*in this holy night*] your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand [... and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [... and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] the angels sang, ‘Peace to God’s people on earth.’ Strengthen those who work for justice and peace in [... and in] all the world.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ’s redemption.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand [... and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: [*In this holy night*] Christians the world over celebrate Christ’s birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Father, [i*n this holy night*] angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Unto us a boy is born; unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***or***

Priest: This holy night the angels sang, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to exchange a sign of peace with one another. (Times and Seasons p. 83)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and …

***or:***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and …

***or:***

And now we give you thanks because in choosing the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son you have exalted the humble and meek. You angel hailed her as most highly favoured, and with all generations we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name. Therefore with angels and …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, [and on this night] was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

[and on this night] was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Alternative introduction to the Lord’s prayer***

Priest: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us: *(Times and Seasons)*

***The Fraction***

Priest: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God is here among us, light in the midst of us,**

**ring us to light and life**  *(Times and Seasons)*

***Post communion prayer (to be used during Christmas Day)***

God our Father,

whose Word has come among us

in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

may the light of faith illumine our hearts

and shine in our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

***or Post communion prayer (if used at Christmas midnight)***

God our Father,

in this night you have made known to us again

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him

until the day dawns

and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

**To him be glory both now and for ever.** **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our hearts and fix our minds on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

***or variation on Christmas midnight post communion prayer above***

Let us pray:

God our Father,

tonight you have made known to us again

the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

May our Christmas celebration

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him

until the day dawns

and Christ the morning star

rises in our hearts.

All: To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. *(Patterns)*

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing …

***or***

Priest: Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will:

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

***Dismissal***

Priest: Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All: Glory, thanks and praise to God. *(T&S)*

**St Stephen, First Martyr** 26th December[*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\Readings%20for%20Saints%20Days%20ABC.doc#StephenN)

**St John, Apostle and Evangelist** 27th December [*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\Readings%20for%20Saints%20Days%20ABC.doc#JohnEvangelistN)

**Holy Innocents** 28th December [*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\Readings%20for%20Saints%20Days%20ABC.doc#HolyInnocentsN)

John Wyclif31st December [*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\Readings%20for%20Saints%20Days%20ABC.doc#JohnWyclifN)

## CHRISTMAS 1 [YEAR B]

The Church of England provides a different Gospel from the Revised Common Lectionary.

***Introduction:***

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to confession***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

***or:***

The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus” for he will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith *(Patterns)*

***Collect:***

Almighty God,

who wonderfully created us in your own image

and yet more wonderfully restored us

through your Son Jesus Christ:

grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,

so we may share the life of his divinity;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *(Christmas 1)*

***or in alternative layout:***

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *(Christmas 1)*

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 61. 10 – 62. 3)*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 148**

***REFRAIN* Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

1 Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars. ***Refrain***

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;

for he commanded and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away. ***Refrain***

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing his will;

9 Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars; ***Refrain***

10 Wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and winged birds;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens,

old and young together. ***Refrain***

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name only is exalted,

his splendour is over earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians** *(Gal 4. 4–7)*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL *(for Revised Common Lectionary gospel,*** [click here](#Christmas1RCLgospel)***)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke *(Lk 2. 15–21)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***(******Revised Common Lectionary only)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke *(Lk 2. 22-40)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to our word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and other were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***The Peace:*** Unto us a boy is born; unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***Proper Preface:***

And now we give you thanks because by the power of the Holy Spirit he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and …

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and …

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in choosing the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son you have exalted the humble and meek. You angel hailed her as most highly favoured, and with all generations we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name. Therefore with angels and …

***Post Communion Prayer:***

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth

the life of an earthly home:

help your Church to live as one family,

united in love and obedience,

and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or in alternative format:***

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with his joy and peace:

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

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#### CHRISTMAS 2 [YEARS A B & C]

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

[Today's Readings]

***Invitation to Confession***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

***or***

The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus” for he will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith *(Patterns)*

***Collect***

Almighty God,

in the birth of your Son

you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,

and shown us the fullness of your love:

help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love

that we may know the fullness of his joy;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *Christmas* *2*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING *(alternative readings)***

***either:***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah** *(Jer 31. 7–14)*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus** *(Ecclus 24 .1–12)*

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ‘I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. Among all these I sought a resting-place; in whose territory should I abide? Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.” Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM *or* CANTICLE**

**Psalm 147. 13-21 *(if Jeremiah 31. 7-14 is read)***

***REFRAIN***  **The Word became flesh**

**and lived among us.**

***or***

***REFRAIN***  **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;**

**make music to our God.**

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;

he has blessed your children within you. ***Refrain***

15 He has established peace on your borders;

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth,

and his word runs very swiftly. ***Refrain***

17 He gives snow like wool;

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;

who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;

he blows with his wind and the waters flow. ***Refrain***

20 He declares his word to Jacob,

his statutes and his judgements to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation;

to them he has not revealed his judgements. ***Refrain***

***or***

**Canticle *(if Ecclesiasticus 24.1–12 is read)***

**Wisdom of Solomon 10. 15–21**

***REFRAIN***  **The righteous sing hymns to your name.**

15 Wisdom led the Israelites out of Egypt

A holy people and blameless race

wisdom delivered from a nation of oppressors.

16 She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,

and withstood dread kings with wonders and signs. ***Refrain***

17 She gave to holy people the reward of their labours;

she guided them along a marvellous way,

and became a shelter to them by day,

and a starry flame through the night.

18 She brought them over the Red Sea,

and led them through deep waters;

19 but she drowned their enemies,

and cast them up from the depths of the sea. ***Refrain***

20 Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly;

they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name,

and praised with one accord your defending hand;

21 for wisdom opened the mouths of those who were mute,

and made the tongues of infants speak clearly. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 1. 3–14)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God’s will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God’s own people to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL *(long or short reading)***

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 1. (1-9), 10-18)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.] The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Unto us a boy is born; unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and …

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

All praise to you,

almighty God and heavenly King,

who sent your Son into our world

to take our nature upon him

and to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that, as we are born again in him,

so he may continually dwell in us

and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,

now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Priest: All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly King, who sent your Son into our world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing …

***or***

Priest: Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will:

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB+CW)*

#### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD [YEARS A B & C]

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

[Today's Readings]

***Greeting***

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe!

All: From the rising of the sun to its setting

your name is proclaimed in all the world.

Priest: The Lord of glory be with you.

All: The Lord bless you.

***Invitation to Confession***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

***or***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(Patterns and POHG)*

***Collect***

O God, who by the leading of a star

manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:

mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith,

may at last behold your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *E**piphany*

***or continuous form:***

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 60.1–6)*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 72. 1–7, 10–14**

***REFRAIN* Kings bow down before him;**

**all the nations do him service.**

1 Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king’s son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

and the little hills bring righteousness. ***Refrain***

4 He shall defend the needy among the people;

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,

from one generation to another. ***Refrain***

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;

there shall be abundance of peace

till the moon shall be no more. ***Refrain***

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,

and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him,

and all the nations do him service. ***Refrain***

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,

and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;

he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,

and dear shall their blood be in his sight. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 3.1–12)*

I Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL *(long or short reading)***

Priest Christ was revealed in flesh,

proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *(Matt 2.1–12)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

The Gospel may be read from the Crib. After the Gospel, the traditional gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh may be offered at the Crib. Alternatively, the three figures of the Wise Men may be placed in the Crib. These Acclamations may be made: (POHG, also T&S)

At the offering of Gold:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever!

As gold in the furnace is tried

and purified seven times in the fire,

so purify our hearts and minds

that we may be a royal priesthood

acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

All: Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of Incense:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever!

As our prayer rises up in your presence as incense,

so may we be presented before you

with penitent hearts and uplifted hands

to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

All: Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of Gold:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever!

As you give medicine to heal our sickness

and the leaves of the tree of life

for the healing of the nations,

so anoint us with your healing power

that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

All: Blessed be God for ever!

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***The Intercessions (POHG p. 224)***

Priest: Today the Wise Men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

(all kneel)

Leader: Father, the Wise Men came from the east to worship your Son:

grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, you are the King of kings and Lord of lords:

grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth:

protect in your mercy our neighbours and our families,

together with the whole community of which we are part.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, though you were rich, for our sake you became poor:

show your love for the poor and powerless,

and strengthen ( … and all) those who suffer.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, the Wise Men presented to your Son gold, frankincense and myrrh:

accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you:

give to ( … and all) the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds, and angels,

and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,

we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and … *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory

made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism

Jesus was revealed as the Christ,

the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Lord God,

the bright splendour whom the nations seek:

may we who with the wise men

have been drawn by your light

discern the glory of your presence in your Son,

the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**

***or***

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts

with the good news of his kingdom;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

## BAPTISM OF CHRIST YEAR B

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Introduction and call to worship***

The Baptism of Jesus reveals his identity as God's chosen and beloved Son. This celebration invites us to reflect upon our own baptism through which we also have become the beloved children of God.

***Invitation to confession***

Jesus is the one who brings true justice to the nations, neither breaking the crushed reed nor quenching the wavering flame. With confidence let us ask for his mercy. *(RCL B1)*

***Collect:*** Eternal Father,

who at the baptism of Jesus

revealed him to be your Son,

anointing him with the Holy Spirit:

grant to us,

who are born again by water and the Spirit,

that we may be faithful to our calling

as your adopted children;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. A**men**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 1. 1–5)*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 29**

**REFRAIN**  **The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;**

**[the God of glory thunders].**

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. ***Refrain***

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. ***Refrain***

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. ***Refrain***

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord

all are crying, ‘Glory!’ ***Refrain***

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 19. 1–7)*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the in land regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ Then he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They answered, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 1. 4-11)*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

A Thanksgiving on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord

Priest: God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All: Lord, give us this water, and we will thirst no more

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: He is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:

You are our light and our salvation!

For today the grace of the Holy Spirit

in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Therefore, heavenly Father,

accept out sacrifice of praise

and by the power of that same life-giving Spirit

sanctify these waters of your new creation;

that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,

may be renewed in your image,

walk by the light of faith

and serve you in newness of life;

through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise:

All: Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation, now and for ever. Amen

Priest: I saw water flowing from the threshold of the Temple

All: Wherever the river flows everything will spring to life. Alleluia!

Priest: On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.

**All: Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.**

Priest: Their fruit will be served for food,

their leaves for the healing of the nations.

**All: For the river of the water of life**

**flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

An Act of Penitence and Dedication

Priest: God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;

look in mercy on your people.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: We have broken the pledges of our baptism

and failed to be your disciples.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: Though we are saved by Christ and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,

we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: We have shown indifference to those in need

and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember

your repeated forgiveness for our sins:

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: Today we rejoice and give thanks because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan. Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism for the remission of our sins.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: Through water and Spirit you give us new life as the people of God,

and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

**All: Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Priest: Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new.

Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives, make known your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Prayers of Intercession***

Priest: As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us…

***The Peace:*** God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord …

***Proper Preface:***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and archangels, and …

***Post Communion Prayer:*** *(Common Worship)*

Lord of all time and eternity,

you have opened the heavens

and revealed yourself as Father

in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:

by the power of your Spirit

complete the heavenly work of our rebirth

through the waters of the new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

***Post Communion Prayer:*** *(Promise of his Glory)*

#### Father, in baptism

we die to sin, rise again to new life,

and find our true place in Christ’s living body.

Send us out sealed in the blood of the New Covenant

to bring your reconciliation to this wounded world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

***The Blessing:***

May God the Father, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light of Light, lead you also on your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the River Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  **Amen**

***Post communion prayer:***  (The Christian Year – an alternative to the above)

Lord of all time and eternity,

you opened the heavens

and revealed yourself as Father

in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:

by the power of your Spirit

complete the heavenly work of our rebirth

through the waters of the new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen**

## EPIPHANY 2 [YEAR B]

*[updated in 2012 with modern collect and hymn list]*

*Introduction*

*No matter who we are, God wants to visit us with his life-changing light and grace. Here in this Eucharist let us offer ourselves to his service and ask for his light, his presence and his strength*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| All heaven declares |  |  |  | 75 |  |  |  |  |
| Alleluia, sing to Jesus |  | r | 278 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bright the vision that delighted |  | r | 392 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Come and see the shining hope |  | g |  | 8 |  |  |  |  |
| Come let us join our cheerful songs | ga | r | 401 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forth in the peace of Christ we go | pc | r | 429 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| From all that dwell / who live | gr | r | 431 |  |  |  |  |  |
| I cannot tell why he whom angels |  | g | 54 |  |  |  |  |  |
| I the Lord of sky and sea |  | g | 470 | 158 |  | ✓ |  |  |
| In Christ alone, my hope is found |  | g |  | 286 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus calls us o’er the tumult |  | g | 233 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Just as I am, without one plea | of/cm | g | 308 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour |  | r | 311 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Lord speak to me that I may speak |  | o | 512 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, you give the great commission |  | g |  | 162 |  |  |  |  |
| O worship the King, all glorious above |  | r | 546 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Sent by the Lord I am | pc |  |  | 231 |  |  |  |  |
| There is a Redeemer |  | r |  | 315 |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Will you come and follow me | pc | g | 622 | 171 |  |  |  |  |
| Ye holy angels bright |  | g | 626 |  |  |  |  |  |
| You are the King of glory |  | g |  | 53 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty | ga | - | 202 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| One more step along the way I go | pc | child | 548 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| O thou who at thy Eucharist |  | unity | 318 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Comment***

Oskar Schindler was a German businessman who, during World War Two, boosted his profits by employing Jewish labour. In the film *Schindler’s List* his factory manager tells him about the brutality of the work camp commander, and Schindler explodes, “What do you expect me to do about it?” “There’s nothing you can do,” replies the manager, but Schindler knows there is, and saves hundreds of lives. The manager, like Philip in the Gospel, simply talks about what matters to him, and hearts are changed as a result. [RSCM 2012]

***Invitation to Confession***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

***or***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(Patterns and POHG)*

***Collect***

Almighty God,

in Christ you make all things new:

transform the poverty of our nature

by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Epiphany 2*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Modern (alternative) Collect \*\*(can be used throughout Epiphany season)***

Eternal Lord,

our beginning and our end:

bring us with the whole creation

to your glory, hidden through past ages

and made known

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**FIRST READING *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 3. 1–10, (11–20))*

The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ [Then the Lord said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.’ As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 139. 1-5, 12-17**

***REFRAIN* I will thank you**

# because I am marvellously made.

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places

and are acquainted with all my ways. ***Refrain***

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain to it. ***Refrain***

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvellously made;

your works are wonderful and I know it well. ***Refrain***

14 My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret

and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;

all of them were written in your book;

they were fashioned day by day,

when as yet there was none of them. ***Refrain***

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them,

they would be more in number than the sand;

to count them all,

my life span would need to be like yours. ***Refrain***

*The* [*Church of England*](#Epiphany2CE) *provides a different* ***Second Reading*** *from the* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Epiphany2RCL)*.*

**SECOND READING *(******Church of England)***

**A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine** *(Rev 5. 1–10)*

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Christ was revealed in flesh,

proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 1. 43-51)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: To acknowledge our vocation, to adopt and embrace it, as Christ did, is to know peace in the depths of our being. Let us encourage each other to aspire to such peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and … *(ASB)*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour. Therefore with angels and … *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory

made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism

Jesus was revealed as the Christ,

the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

God of glory,

you nourish us with your Word

who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit

that through us the light of your glory

may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***or in continuous form:***

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***or***

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts

with the good news of his kingdom;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

**SECOND READING *(******Revised Common Lectionary)***

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians *(1 Cor. 6. 12-20)***

Brothers and sisters, ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything. ‘Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,’ and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, ‘The two shall be one flesh.’ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## EPIPHANY 3 [YEAR B]

*[updated in 2012 with modern collect and hymn list]*

*Introduction*

*In our worship today we give thanks for the institution of marriage, and pray for the home life of Christian families everywhere*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| All hail the power of Jesus’ name | of | r | 163 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Alleluia, sing to Jesus | of | r | 278 |  |  |  |  |  |
| At the Lamb’s high feast we sing |  | r | 138 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bread of life, hope of the world | of/cm |  | 663 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ is our light! |  | g |  | 26 |  |  |  |  |
| Dear Lord and Father of mankind |  | g | 411 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness | of/cm | r | 295 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forth in the peace of Christ we go | pc |  | 429 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hail to the Lord’s anointed | of |  | 87 |  |  |  |  |  |
| I come with joy | of | r | 305 | 217 |  |  |  |  |
| I will worship with all of my heart |  | r |  | 284 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus calls us here to meet him |  | g |  | 218 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult | of | g | 233 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus come, for we invite you |  | g |  | 28 |  |  |  |  |
| Let all mortal flesh keep silence |  | r | 309 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Longing for light (Christ be our light) | ga | s |  | 13 |  |  |  |  |
| Rejoice the Lord is King | ga/pc | r | 563 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Songs of thankfulness and praise |  | g | 90 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Take up thy cross |  | g | 582 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The God of Abraham praise |  | o | 586 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice |  | r | 592 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The people that in darkness sat |  | s | 38 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| God of grace and God of glory | pc |  | 448 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty | ga |  | 202 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| One more step along the world I go | child |  | 548 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Soul of my Saviour | cm |  | 322 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

***or***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(Patterns and POHG)*

***Collect***

Almighty God,

whose Son revealed in signs and miracles

the wonder of your saving presence:

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness

sustain us by your mighty power;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *Epiphany 3*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Modern (alternative) Collect***

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Epiphany3RCL) *and the* [*Church of England*](#Epiphany3CofE) *make different provision for today.*

**FIRST READING *(******Church of England provision)***

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 14. 17–20)*

After Abram’s return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!’ And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 128**

***REFRAIN* Whoever fears the Lord**

# shall indeed be blessed.

1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord,

and who follow in his ways!

2 You shall eat the fruit of your labour;

happiness and prosperity shall be yours. ***Refrain***

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine

within your house,

your children like olive shoots round about your table.

4 Whoever fears the Lord

shall thus indeed be blessed. ***Refrain***

5 The Lord bless you from Zion,

and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem

all the days of our life.

6 May you live to see your children’s children;

may peace be upon Israel. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(Church of England provision)***

**A reading from the book of Revelation** *(Rev 19. 6–10)*

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure’ – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Christ was revealed in flesh,

proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 2. 1-11)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: To acknowledge our vocation, to adopt and embrace it, as Christ did, is to know peace in the depths of our being. Let us encourage each other to aspire to such peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and … *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory

made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism

Jesus was revealed as the Christ,

the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty Father,

whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

is the light of the world:

may your people,

illumined by your word and sacraments,

shine with the radiance of his glory,

that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed

to the ends of the earth;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

***or in continuous form:***

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  **Amen.**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***or***

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts

with the good news of his kingdom;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

***or***

May God the Father, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light of Light, lead you also on your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the River Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  **Amen**

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Epiphany3RCL) *and the* [*Church of England*](#Epiphany3CofE) *make different provision for today -(Epiphany 3).*

**FIRST READING *(******Revised Common Lectionary provision)***

**A reading from the Book of Jonah *(Jon. 3. 1-5, 10)***

The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 62. 6-14**

***REFRAIN* God alone is my rock and my salvation.**

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits;

truly, my hope is in him.

7 He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. ***Refrain***

8 In God is my safety and my honour;

God is my strong rock and my refuge.

9 Put your trust in him always, O people,

pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. ***Refrain***

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,

even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath,

all of them together.

12 Put no trust in extortion;

in robbery take no empty pride;

though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it. ***Refrain***

13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,

that power belongs to God.

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,

for you repay everyone according to his deeds. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(1Cor. 7. 29-31)*

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL

Priest Christ was revealed in flesh,

proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark *(****Mk 1. 1-14)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

## EPIPHANY 4 [YEAR B]

*updated for 2006*

*Introduction*

*In today's liturgy we are reminded that if we are to love God with all our heart we must be wholly committed to his service.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

*Today's Readings*

**First Reading** *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

God promises the Israelites that he will raise up a prophet like Moses through whom he will speak. Advice is given about how to recognise a true word from God.

**Second Reading** *Revelation 12:1-5*

An image of a woman and a dragon: the woman is the mother of God's people; the dragon is Satan. Satan may try to steal God's people, but he will never succeed.

**Gospel**  *Mark 1:21-28*

Christ teaches with an authority that can command even the spirit world. He demonstrates his ability to release people from all forms of evil.

***Invitation to Confession***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

***or***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(Patterns and POHG)*

***Collect***

God our creator

who in the beginning

commanded the light to shine out of darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ

may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,

shine into the hearts of all your people,

and reveal the knowledge of your glory

in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *(Epiphany 4)*

***or continuous form:***

God our creator who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*The Church of England provides a different Second Reading from the Revised Common Lectionary.*

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy** *(Deut. 18. 15-20)*

Moses spoke to the people; he said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: ‘If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.’ Then the Lord replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 111**

***REFRAIN* Great are the deeds of the Lord!**

# [They are studied by all who delight in them.]

1 Alleluia!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord!

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendour,

and his righteousness endures for ever. ***Refrain***

4 He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;

the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him;

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works

in giving them the lands of the nations. ***Refrain***

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity. ***Refrain***

9 He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever;

holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures for ever. ***Refrain***

*The* [*Church of England*](#Epiphany4CofE) *provides a different Second Reading from the* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Epiphany4RCL)*.*

**SECOND READING *(******Church of England provision)***

**A reading from the book of Revelation** *(Rev 12. 1–5a)*

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Christ was revealed in flesh,

proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark *(Mk 1. 21–28)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: To acknowledge our vocation, to adopt and embrace it, as Christ did, is to know peace in the depths of our being. Let us encourage each other to aspire to such peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and … *(ASB)*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

Priest All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory

made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism

Jesus was revealed as the Christ,

the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Generous Lord,

in word and Eucharist we have proclaimed

the mystery of your love:

help us so to live out our days

that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

***or in continuous form:***

Generous Lord, in word and Eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  **Amen.**

***Blessing***

Priest: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***or***

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts

with the good news of his kingdom;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(ASB)*

***or***

May God the Father, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light of Light, lead you also on your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the River Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  **Amen**

*The* [*Church of England*](#Epiphany4CofE) *provides a different Second Reading from the* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Epiphany4RCL) *for today - (Epiphany 4).*

**SECOND READING *(******Revised Common Lectionary provision)***

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(1Cor. 8. 1-13)*

Concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘no idol in the world really exists,’ and that ‘there is no God but one.’ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ‘Food will not bring us close to God.’ We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### CANDLEMASS [YEARS A, B and C]

(PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE)

*Gold or white*

*[updated in 2012 with modern collect and hymn list]*

*Through sacrifice the power of love is released into our lives and the world. When Jesus was presented in the temple he was consecrated to God, and went on to live out that consecration fully. In this Eucharist let us thank God for Christ's self giving and offer our selves, our souls and our bodies as living sacrifices.*

On first hearing about the story of the aged Simeon taking the child Jesus and blessing him, a person remarked, “What a lovely story!” But it has a distinctly unlovely aspect to it, as Simeon foresees ‘the falling and rising of many’. echoing Malachi’s prophecy describing a refiner’s fire which brings judgement. This reminds us of the ongoing challenge not to turn Jesus into someone comfortable and easy, but to know him in the wildness and power of God. [RSCM Comment 2012]

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| Angels from the realms of glory | ga | g | 44 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Before the throne of God above |  | e | 283 | 261 |  |  |  |  |
| Christ whose glory fills the skies | ga | s | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Faithful vigil ended | gr | g | 360 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Fling wide the gates |  | ps |  | 11 |  |  |  |  |
| Forth in the peace of Christ we go | pc | g | 429 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hail to the Lord who comes | of | g | 94 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Join all the glorious names |  | e | 493 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Light of the world, true light divine |  | s |  | 32 |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, now let your servant |  | g |  | 198 |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, set your servant free |  | g |  | 199 |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, the light of your love is shining |  | s | 513 | 108 |  |  |  |  |
| New light has dawned |  | g |  | 33 |  |  |  |  |
| Of the Father’s love begotten | ga | s | 64/65 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purify my heart | gr/cm | o |  | 182 |  |  |  |  |
| Restore, O Lord, the honour |  | o |  | 165 |  |  |  |  |
| Thy kingdom come, on bended knee |  | g | 608 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Virgin born, we bow before thee |  | g | 244 |  |  |  |  |  |
| When candles are lighted |  | s | 80 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| With joy we meditate the grace |  | e | 624 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fairest Lord Jesus (WOV 80) | cm |  |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Hail gladdening light (alt v2) |  |  | 18 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| O worship the Lord in the beauty ... | ga |  |  | 89 | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Sing lullaby | cm |  |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Malachi 3:1-5

The prophet looks forward to the day when God's servant will come to judge and purify his people

**Second Reading** Hebrews 2:14-18

Through the power of the incarnation Christ is able to be both priest and victim in the redemption of humanity.

**Gospel** Luke 2: 22-40

As Mary and Joseph consecrate Christ to God they foreshadow the sacrifice which Jesus makes for the salvation of the world.

***Invitation to Confession***

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.’ Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

***or***

God wants us to consecrate our lives to his will, but too often we choose our own way through selfishness and pride.

***Collect***

Almighty and ever-living God,

clothed in majesty,

whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,

in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you

with pure and clean hearts,

by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Candlemass*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi** *(Mal 3. 1–5)*

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Church of England provision allows only Psalm 24. Revised Common Lectionary provides Psalm 84 as an alternative.

***(Church of England and Revised Common Lectionary)***

**Psalm 24. (1–6), 7–10**

***REFRAIN* The Lord of hosts,**

**he is the king of glory.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* The Lord whom you seek**

**will suddenly come.**

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

the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas

and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. ***Refrain***

3 ‘Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?

and who can stand in his holy place?’

4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,

who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,

nor sworn by what is a fraud. ***Refrain***

5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord

and a just reward from the God of their salvation.’

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. ***Refrain*** ]

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

8 ‘Who is this King of glory?’

‘The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord, mighty in battle.’ ***Refrain***

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

10 ‘Who is he, this King of glory?’

‘The Lord of hosts,

he is the King of glory.’ ***Refrain***

***(Revised Common Lectionary only)***

**Psalm 84**

***REFRAIN* Happy are they who dwell in your house!**

***or***

***REFRAIN* Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer**

**[hearken, O God of Jacob].**

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. ***Refrain***

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God. ***Refrain***

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way. ***Refrain***

5 Those who go through the desolate valley

will find it a place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

hearken, O God of Jacob. ***Refrain***

8 Behold our defender, O God;

and look upon the face of your anointed.

9 For one day in your courts

is better than a thousand in my own room,

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. ***Refrain***

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;

he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold

from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts,

happy are they who put their trust in you! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 2. 14–18)*

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest This child is the light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(****Lk 2. 22–40)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: In the tender mercy of our God the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

Priest And now we give you thanks because, by appearing in the temple, he comes near to us in judgement; the Word made flesh searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the brightness of your splendour.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

Priest And now we give thee thanks because, by appearing in the temple, he comes near to us in judgement; the Word made flesh searches the hearts of all thy people and brings to light the brightness of thy splendour.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

Priest It is indeed right and good, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity. For on this day he appeared in the temple in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement. He searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour. Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption. Destined for the falling and rising of many, he was lifted high upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother’s heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you. And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too, have seen your salvation and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good,

always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise

through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple

in substance of our flesh

to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people

and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,

he was lifted high upon the cross

and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother’s heart

when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name

that we, too, have seen your salvation

and join with angels and archangels

in their unending hymn of praise:

**Candlemass Procession:** *(POHG)*

*(After the communion, individual candles will be lit for the Procession as we sing):*

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king. Angels are watching, stars are shining –

over the place where he is lying: Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing – then in the grave, at last, reposing: Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby is the babe awakening? sing lullaby!

Hush, do not stir the infant king. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,

conquering death, its bondage breaking: Sing Lullaby!

Priest: This child is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected. And a sword shall pierce your own soul also.

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal temple where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: My own eyes have seen the salvation:

which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: A light to reveal you to the nations:

and the glory of your people Israel.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and shall be for ever. Amen

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

**Recessional hymn:** 582 ‘Take up thy cross, the Saviour said’

*(During the last couple of verses, please follow servers and priest to the Font)*

Priest: Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

All: Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Priest: Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All: Help us, who have received the bread of life,

to be thankful for your gift.

Priest: Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All: Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,

to trust in your eternal promises.

Priest: Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

All: Help us, who now extinguish these candles,

never to forsake the light of Christ.

*All now extinguish their candles.*

Priest: Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

All: Help us, who are marked with the cross,

to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Priest: Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All: Help us, for whom Lent is near,

to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Priest: Here we bless one another in your name.

All: Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Post communion prayer (not used if there is a procession to the Font)***

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,

who lived to welcome the Messiah:

may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,

prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes

to bring us to eternal life;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen** *(CW)*

***or***

Almighty Father,

whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

is the light of the world:

may your people,

illumined by your word and sacraments,

shine with the radiance of his glory,

that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed

to the ends of the earth;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**  *(?)*

***or continuous form:***

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen** *(CW)*

***or***

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

May God the Father,

through the gift of his only begotten Son,

and by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

fill you with his life in the world.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

ORDINARY TIME

*In the weeks between now and Lent the Revised Common Lectionary designates Sundays ‘Sundays after Epiphany’,*

*The Church of England provision designates them ‘Sundays before Lent’ with readings according to calendar date.*

#### FIFTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT [YEAR C]

#### AND THE DAYS AFTER CANDLEMASS

*Green*

*b/f from Year C so readings may need amending*

***This provision is always used from the day after the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemass) until the first of the Sundays before Lent***

*In the weeks between now and Lent the Church of England provision designates them ‘Sundays before Lent’ with readings according to calendar date. The Revised Common Lectionary designates Sundays ‘Sundays after Epiphany’. This is known as EPIPHANY 5*

***Introduction***

*God constantly speaks to us, the children of his creation. In our worship today we pray that we may hear God's voice and answer God's call.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading**  Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

God, from his throne of glory, calls for an ambassador. "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Isaiah, though dwarfed by the majesty of God and conscious of his own shortcomings, offers his services.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul, only too aware of his former fierce opposition to the teaching of Jesus, pays tribute to the grace of God by which he has been enabled to become an apostle.

**Gospel** Luke 5:1-11

St. Luke tells how Jesus finds some fishermen, challenges them to do what he tells them and then calls them to follow him. "They left everything and followed Jesus."

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

God speaks. But often cannot be heard because sin has taken the edge off our hearing. Let us make our confession and ask for forgiveness.

***Collect***

O God,

by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service:

strengthen us by your Holy Spirit

and make us worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Fifth before Lent*

***or continuous form:***

O God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 6. 1–8, (9–13))*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’ [ And he said, ‘Go and say to this people: “Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.” Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.’ Then I said, ‘How long, O Lord?’ And he said: ‘Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.’ ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 138**

***REFRAIN* Before the gods I will sing your praise, O Lord.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* Great is the glory of the Lord!**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down towards your holy temple

and praise your name,

because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your name

and your word above all things. ***Refrain***

4 When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord,

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord,

that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly;

he perceives the haughty from afar. ***Refrain***

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand

against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me;

O Lord, your love endures for ever;

do not abandon the works of your hands. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** (*1 Cor 15. 1–11)*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(Lk 5. 1–11)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: The Lord Jesus calls us to follow him: in an obedient response we find our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for the Sundays before Lent and after Trinity]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in him.

***(or)***

And now we give you thanks because on the first day of the week he overcame death and the grave and opened to us the way of everlasting life.

***(or)***

and now we give you thanks because by the water and the Holy Spirit you have made us in him a new people to show forth your glory.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death

with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

God of truth,

we have seen with our eyes

and touched with our hands the bread of life:

strengthen our faith

that we may grow in love for you and for each other;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always . **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

God who calls you to service

make you faithful to your calling.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you always. Amen.  *(RCL)*

**SUNDAYS BEFORE LENT** [YEAR B]

*In the weeks between now and Lent the Church of England provision designates them ‘Sundays before Lent’ with readings according to calendar date. The Revised Common Lectionary designates Sundays ‘Sundays after Epiphany’.*

*For* [*seasonal material for the* ***Sundays before Lent***](#SundaysbeforeLent)

***Readings*** *and* ***Propers*** *are separated as they do not coincide the same way each year.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday title | Collect | Post Communion Prayer | Proper |
| Fifth before Lent  (days between Candlemass and following Sunday) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore5C) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore3PC) |  |
| **Fourth before Lent** | [***click here***](#Lentbefore4C) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore4PC) |  |
| Third before Lent | [***click here***](#Lentbefore3C) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore3PC) |  |
| Sunday between 3 and 9 February  (if earlier than Second before Lent) |  |  | [***click here***](#Feb3to9) |
| Sunday between 10 and 16 February  (if earlier than Second before Lent) |  |  | [***click here***](#Feb10to16) |
| Sunday between 17 and 23 February  (if earlier than Second before Lent) |  |  | [***click here***](#Feb17to23) |
| Second before Lent | [***click here***](#Lentbefore2C) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore2PC) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore2N) |
| Next before Lent | [***click here***](#Lentbefore1C) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore1PC) | [***click here***](#Lentbefore1C) |

***The Fifth Sunday before Lent***

***(the days between Candlemass and the first of the Sundays before Lent)***

***Collect:***

O God,

you know us to be set

in the midst of so many and great dangers,

that by reason of the frailty of our nature

we cannot stand upright:

grant to us such strength and protection

as may support us in al dangers

and carry us through all temptations;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** ***(5 before Lent)***

***or continuous form:***

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in al dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post communion prayer***

Go before us. Lord, in all we do

with your most gracious favour,

and guide us with your continual help,

that in all our works

begun, continued or ended in you,

we may glorify your holy name,

and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Go before us. Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued or ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***The Fourth Sunday before Lent***

***Collect:***

O God,

you know us to be set

in the midst of so many and great dangers,

that by reason of the frailty of our nature

we cannot stand upright:

grant to us such strength and protection

as may support us in all dangers

and carry us through all temptations;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** ***(4 before Lent)***

***or continuous form:***

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post communion prayer***

Go before us. Lord, in all we do

with your most gracious favour,

and guide us with your continual help,

that in all our works

begun, continued or ended in you,

we may glorify your holy name,

and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Go before us. Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued or ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***The Third Sunday before Lent***

***Collect:***

Almighty God,

who alone can bring order

to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace

so to love what you command

and to desire what you promise,

that, among the many changes of this world,

our hearts may surely there be fixed

where true joys are to be found;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *(3 before Lent)*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer:***

Merciful Father,

who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,

that those who came to him should never hunger

draw us to the Lord in faith and love,

that we may eat and drink with him

at his table in the kingdom,

where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  **Amen.**

***or continuous form:***

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who came to him should never hunger draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  **Amen.**

***The Second Sunday before Lent***

***Collect:***  [click here](#Lentbefore2C)

***Post Communion Prayer:*** [click here](#Lentbefore2PC)

***The Sunday next before Lent***

***Collect:*** [click here](#Lentbefore1C)

***Post Communion Prayer:*** [click here](#Lentbefore1PC)

**SUNDAYS BEFORE LENT** [YEAR B]

[SEASONAL MATERIAL]

*Green*

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(Patterns)*

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Through the death of Jesus Christ the barrier between God and mankind was torn in two and peace was established forever.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for the Sundays before Lent and after Trinity]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because the divine glory of the incarnate Word shone forth upon the holy mountain before the chosen witnesses of his majesty; and your own voice from heaven proclaimed your beloved Son.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because the divine glory of the incarnate Word shone forth upon the holy mount before the chosen witnesses of his majesty; and thine own voice from heaven proclaimed thy beloved Son.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E (not ‘Transfiguration theme’)***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death

with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:

***Blessing***

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God,

in the love of his Son, and in the grace of his Spirit.

And the blessing of almighty God be with you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

May the glory of God the Father,

shining in his Son Jesus Christ,

be poured into our hearts,

through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The blessing of almighty God.  *(RCL)*

**SUNDAY BETWEEN 3 AND 9 FEBRUARY** [YEAR B]

[IF EARLIER THAN SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT]

*Green*

***Introduction***

*Christ transforms our lives so that we can experience his healing power for ourselves and then can bring it to others. Let us worship our transforming, healing, almighty God. (RCL B1)*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Isaiah 40:21-31

Isaiah speaks words of hope and future to refugees in exile. He reminds them of God's greatness and compassion and assures them of his faithfulness and concern for their lives.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Paul says he will do just about anything to win people for the gospel, and to see them set free from their past religions that would bind them with rules and regulations, and to see them discover God's love for themselves.

**Gospel** Mark 1:29-39

Christ cures Simon's mother-in-law from a fever, and afterward heals all who come to him before setting out for neighbouring towns. In between times, however, he takes time out alone to pray.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 40. 21–31)*

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God’? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 147. 1-12, 20c**

***REFRAIN* Sing praises to our God,**

# who heals the broken hearted.

1 Alleluia!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

how pleasant it is to honour him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the broken hearted

and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars

and calls them all by their names. ***Refrain***

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;

there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly,

but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

make music to our God upon the harp. ***Refrain***

8 He covers the heavens with clouds

and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains

and green plants to serve us all.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds

and for the young ravens when they cry. ***Refrain***

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse,

he has no pleasure in human strength;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who await his gracious favour.

20 Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor 9. 16–23)*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk. 1. 29-39)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, ‘Everyone is searching for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.’ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**SUNDAY BETWEEN 10 AND 16 FEBRUARY** [YEAR B]

[IF EARLIER THAN SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT]

*Green*

***Introduction***

*Jesus restores the outcast and untouchable to fullness of life. No one is untouchable by him. We too find restoration as we meet Christ in the Eucharist. (RCL B1)*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** 2 Kings 5:1-14

We are told how the prophet Elisha brought healing from God to a man with leprosy. The man found it hard to accept at first because it was so simple - he had expected to have to do something complicated and difficult to achieve healing.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul compares the Christian life to a race - those who take part have to exercise and train rigorously to have any hope of completing the course. We need to be just as focused in our faith and life.

**Gospel** Mark 1:40-45

A leper, untouchable by the whole of society, dares to come to Jesus to ask for healing. Jesus reaches out and touches him - he is healed and his life is restored to fullness.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Kings** *(****2 Kings 5. 1–14)***

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, ‘If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.’ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, ‘Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.’ He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, ‘When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.’ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, ‘Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.’ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, ‘Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.’ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.’ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, ‘I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?’ He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, ‘Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, “Wash, and be clean”?’ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean..

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 30**

***REFRAIN* O Lord my God, I cried out to you,**

**and you restored me to health.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* You have made us, Lord, as strong as the mountains.**

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,

because you have lifted me up

and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you,

and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;

you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. ***Refrain***

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;

give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,

his favour for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night,

but joy comes in the morning. ***Refrain***

7 While I felt secure, I said,

‘I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favour,

made me as strong as the mountains.’

8 Then you hid your face,

and I was filled with fear. ***Refrain***

9 I cried to you, O Lord;

I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 ‘What profit is there in my blood,

if I go down to the Pit?

will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;

O Lord, be my helper.’ ***Refrain***

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy;

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** ***(1 Cor 9. 24–27)***

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark *(****Mk. 1. 40-45)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’ Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**SUNDAY BETWEEN 17 AND 23 FEBRUARY** [YEAR B]

[IF EARLIER THAN SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT]

*Green*

***Introduction***

*We are called today to put our trust in the God of new beginnings. God shapes the events of history and touches the experiences of individuals to forgive their sins and heal their hurts; to make life whole. God, as known in Christ, confronts us not with "may be" or "perhaps", but with a certain, positive, re-creating "Yes". (RCL B1)*

***Hymns:***

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*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

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*a Reading from Acts*

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*child known to our children*

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***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Isaiah 43:18-25

The prophet tells his fellow exiles in Babylon to see God's delivering hand as the Persian Cyrus conquers. God's mercy will set them free, take them home.

**Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

The good news of God in Christ Jesus is beyond dispute and wins our response of conviction, acceptance and praise.

**Gospel** Mark 2:1-12

Persistent faith, manifested and shared, opens the heart of a very sick man to forgiveness for his sins and healing for his body.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 43. 18–25)*

The Lord said: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt-offerings, or honoured me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 41**

***REFRAIN* Lord, be merciful to me:**

# heal me, for I have sinned against you.

1 Happy are they who consider the poor and needy!

the Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble.

2 The Lord preserves them and keeps them alive,

so that they may be happy in the land;

he does not hand them over to the will of their enemies. ***Refrain***

3 The Lord sustains them on their sick-bed

and ministers to them in their illness.

4 I said, ‘Lord, be merciful to me;

heal me, for I have sinned against you.’ ***Refrain***

5 My enemies are saying wicked things about me:

‘When will he die and his name perish?’

6 Even if they come to see me, they speak empty words;

their heart collects false rumours;

they go outside and spread them. ***Refrain***

7 All my enemies whisper together about me

and devise evil against me.

8 ‘A deadly thing’, they say, ‘has fastened on him;

he has taken to his bed and will never get up again.’

9 Even my best friend, whom I trusted,

who broke bread with me,

has lifted up his heel and turned against me. ***Refrain***

10 But you, O Lord, be merciful to me and raise me up,

and I shall repay them.

11 By this I know you are pleased with me,

that my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 In my integrity you hold me fast,

and shall set me before your face for ever.

13 Blessèd be the Lord God of Israel,

from age to age. Amen. Amen. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 1. 18–22)*

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been ‘Yes and No.’ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not ‘Yes and No’; but in him it is always ‘Yes.’ For in him every one of God’s promises is a ‘Yes.’ For this reason it is through him that we say the ‘Amen,’ to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark *(****Mk. 2. 1-12)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Stand up and take your mat 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 say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

#### SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT [YEAR C] may also be Creation Sunday

*Green*

*Complete, incl. shorter collects 2012*

*In the weeks between now and Lent the Church of England provision designates them ‘Sundays before Lent’ with readings according to calendar date. The Revised Common Lectionary designates Sundays ‘Sundays after Epiphany’.*

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Lentbefore2RCL) *and the Church of England make different provision for today.*

***For those taking up the Creation theme in the* Common Worship *readings, see also the relevant material on the* Sunday by Sunday *pages of the RSCM website (***[***www.rscm.com***](http://www.rscm.com)***). See also Times and Seasons for creation seasonal material p599ff***

*Introduction:*

*We thank God for sending us his Son, Jesus Christ , who died to save us from the bondage of sin, and we offer to Jesus, the Word made flesh, our homage and worship.*

*The physical miracle performed by Jesus illustrates a deeper spiritual reality. Jesus reaches out to a person who has no pace in the community and heals him, restoring him physically and socially. This provides a picture of how God reaches out to humanity through Jesus and, moved by pity, restores us to communion with God. We are healed not of a specific disease, but of everything that might separate us from God. [RSCM 2012]*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| All praise to Thee, for thou |  | e,g | 372 |  |  |  |  |  |
| At the name of Jesus | of | g | 380 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ is the world’s true light | pc | g | 396 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ triumphant, ever reigning | pc | g | 398 | 267 | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Father of heaven, whose love ... |  | g | 421 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Immortal, invisible, God only wise | ga | o | 474 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| In our darkness light has shone |  | e,g |  | 28 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus is Lord! Creation’s voice ... |  | e | 170 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Light of the minds that know him |  | g | 501 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lord of all worlds, we worship and |  | o,ps |  | 248 |  |  |  |  |
| Lord of beauty, thine the splendour |  | o | 258 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Praise to the holiest in the height |  | e | 557 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Speak, O Lord, as we come to you |  | g |  | 187 |  |  |  |  |
| The spacious firmament on high |  | o | 265 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The works of the Lord are created |  | o | 266 |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a Redeemer |  | e |  | 315 |  |  |  |  |
| Thou whose almighty word |  | o | 267 |  |  |  |  |  |
| To the name of our salvation |  | e | 610 |  |  |  |  |  |
| With wonder, Lord, we see your w... |  | o | 269 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word of God renew your people |  | e,g |  | 126 |  |  |  |  |
| Word of God, come down on earth |  | e,g | 625 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Christ is the King! O friends | go |  | 165 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Dear Lord and Father of mankind | gr |  | 411 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Oh the Lord is gracious unto me | cm |  | PRT |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Peace, perfect peace, is the gift |  | child |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing |  | cm | 319 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Sweet sacrament divine |  | cm | 324 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
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***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Proverbs 8:1,22-31

The writer rejoices in the wonder of wisdom. Wisdom is at the heart of all creation and is the first of all that God made.

**Second Reading** Colossians 1:15-20

Paul writes that Christ is the living expression of God. Christ was the firstborn of all creation, and everything is subservient to him. Christ is the head of the Church.

**Gospel** John 1:1-14

John's Gospel begins with the claim that Jesus is God-on-earth. John uses the Greek concept of the Logos – the Word – to state that the Lord became flesh and lived in our midst.

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

We are like broken clay in the potter's hands, and we come to the Lord in faith and in penitence. We confess that we have sinned, and we ask to be made whole again.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit

reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever. **Amen** *Second Sunday before Lent*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Shorter form Collect***

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever. **Amen**

***(or) \*\****

Almighty God,

give us reverence for all creation

and respect for every person,

that we may mirror your likeness

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

***(or) \*\****

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(Church of England)***

**A reading from the book of Proverbs** *(****Prov 8.1, 22–31)***

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 104. 25-37**

***REFRAIN* Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,**

**and renew the face of the earth.**

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

in wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.  ***Refrain***

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea

with its living things too many to number,

creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan,

which you have made for the sport of it.  ***Refrain***

28 All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them, they gather it;

you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face and they are terrified;

you take away their breath

and they die and return to their dust.  ***Refrain***

31 You send forth your Spirit and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles;

he touches the mountains and they smoke.  ***Refrain***

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him;

I will rejoice in the Lord.

36 Let sinners be consumed out the earth,

and the wicked be no more.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia!  ***Refrain***

**Psalm 104. 25-end**

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

in wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea

with its living things too many to number,

creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan,

which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them, they gather it;

you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face and they are terrified;

you take away their breath

and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit and they are created;

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32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

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I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him;

I will rejoice in the Lord.

36 Let sinners be consumed out the earth,

and the wicked be no more.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia!

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians** *(Col 1.15–20)*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 1. 1 – 14)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for the Sundays before Lent and after Trinity]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in him.

***(or)***

And now we give you thanks because on the first day of the week he overcame death and the grave and opened to us the way of everlasting life.

***(or)***

and now we give you thanks because by the water and the Holy Spirit you have made us in him a new people to show forth your glory.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death

with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,

and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth

be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Post communion prayer – shorter form***

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,

and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth

be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God,

in the love of his Son, and in the grace of his Spirit.

And the blessing of almighty God be with you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

May he whose word spoke and everything began, speak to our hearts.

May the Word which became flesh be with us in our lives.

May the Lord, our Comforter, direct our hearts and minds.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit,

be with us now and always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

***REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY ONLY:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea** *(Hos 2. 14-20)*

The Lord says this concerning Israel, his people: I will now persuade her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. From there I will give her her vineyards, and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, ‘My husband,’ and no longer will you call me, ‘My Baal.’ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more. I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 103. 1-13, 22

***REFRAIN* Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits. ***Refrain***

3 He forgives all your sins

and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s. ***Refrain***

6 The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses

and his works to the children of Israel. ***Refrain***

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us,

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. ***Refrain***

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our sins from us. ***Refrain***

13 As a father cares for his children,

so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,

in all places of his dominion;

bless the Lord, O my soul. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 3. 1b-6)*

We do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 2. 13-22)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples – for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’ Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, ‘Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT** [YEAR A]

*Green*

*In the weeks between now and Lent the Church of England provision designates them ‘Sundays before Lent’ with readings according to calendar date. The Revised Common Lectionary designates Sundays ‘Sundays after Epiphany’.*

On this Sunday the Church of England allows only one of the two options in the Revised Common Lectionary.

***Introduction***

*Today we shall be told of the radiance and the splendour of God. How blessed we are that we can see his glory reflected in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| And can it be |  | *g* | 376 |  |  |  |  |  |
| At the name of Jesus (RL) |  | *g* | 380 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Be still, for the presence of the Lord | *gr* | *g* | 383 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Be thou my vision |  | *g* | 386 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ is the world’s true light |  | *e* | 396 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ, whose glory fills the skies |  | *g* | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deck thyself, my soul with ... (RL) |  | *e* | 295 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eternal light, shine in my heart |  | *e,g* | 415 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult (RL) |  | *g* | 233 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus, these eyes have never seen | *of* | *e* | 491 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, the light of your love is shining |  | *e* | 513 |  |  |  |  |  |
| My God, how wonderful thou art |  | *g* | 523 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name of all majesty |  | *g* | 525 |  |  |  |  |  |
| O gladsome light, O grace  (*evening only)* |  | *e* | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |
| O thou, who at thy Eucharist (RL)\_ | *of* | *e* | 318 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Kingdom of God is justice (RL) |  | *g* | 591 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour |  |  | 329 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ‘Tis good Lord to be here | *gr* | *g* | 248 |  |  |  |  |  |
| We have a gospel to proclaim | *of* | *e* | 612 |  |  |  |  |  |
| With glorious clouds encompassed |  | *g* | 623 |  |  |  |  |  |
| You living Christ, our eyes behold |  | *g* | 333 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Ps 25. 1-9 (Anglican Chant) |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

**Today's Readings**

**First Reading:** 2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah is taken up into heaven and bequeaths his spirit to his successor, Elisha. We remember our Lord's disciples on the Mount of the Ascension.

**Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

St Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth that they must mirror the glory which they see in the face of Christ. That is the most effective form of evangelism in a darkened world.

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 9:2-9

Peter, James and John are granted a mysterious glimpse of the "God-ness" of Jesus. "This is my Son". The experience is bewildering yet affirming.



***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

We come before the Lord who is the Light of the World aware of our sins and our need of forgiveness.

*[possibly using a confession between ‘We come…’ and ‘In the brightness…’]*

In the brightness of your glory.

Lord, have mercy.

In the generosity of your love.

Christ, have mercy.

In the purifying power of your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

***Collect***

Almighty Father,

whose Son was revealed in majesty

before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory,

that we may be strengthened to suffer with him

and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Sunday next before Lent*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Kings** *(2 Kings 2.1–12)*

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’ Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’ Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 50. 1-6**

# *REFRAIN* Our God will come and will not keep silence.

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;

he has called the earth

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,

God reveals himself in glory. ***Refrain***

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence;

before him there is a consuming flame,

and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above

to witness the judgement of his people. ***Refrain***

5 ‘Gather before me my loyal followers,

those who have made a covenant with me

and sealed it with sacrifice.’

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;

for God himself is judge. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 4.3–6)*

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 9. 2-9)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: "It is good for us to be here." We stand in the presence of Christ, risen, ascended, glorified.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for the Sundays before Lent and after Trinity]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because the divine glory of the incarnate Word shone forth upon the holy mountain before the chosen witnesses of his majesty; and your own voice from heaven proclaimed your beloved Son.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because the divine glory of the incarnate Word shone forth upon the holy mount before the chosen witnesses of his majesty; and thine own voice from heaven proclaimed thy beloved Son.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E (not ‘Transfiguration theme’)***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death

with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Holy God,

we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:

may we who are partakers at his table

reflect his life in word and deed,

that all the world may know

his power to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or in continuous form:***

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God,

in the love of his Son, and in the grace of his Spirit.

And the blessing of almighty God be with you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  *(CW)*

***or***

May God the Father grant you a vision of his glory.

May God the Son enlighten you by the brightness of his face.

May God the Holy Spirit fill you with power to live the good news.

And may God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY ONLY:**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy** *(Deut 5. 12-15)*

The Lord says this: Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day..

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 81. 1-10**

# *REFRAIN* Sing with joy to God our strength.

1 Sing with joy to God our strength

and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

2 Raise a song and sound the timbrel,

the merry harp and the lyre.

3 Blow the ram’s-horn at the new moon,

and at the full moon, the day of our feast. ***Refrain***

4 For this is a statute for Israel,

a law of the God of Jacob.

5 He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph,

when he came out of the land of Egypt. ***Refrain***

6 I heard an unfamiliar voice saying,

‘I eased his shoulder from the burden;

his hands were set free from bearing the load.’

7 You called on me in trouble and I saved you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder

and tested you at the waters of Meribah. ***Refrain***

8 Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

9 There shall be no strange god among you;

you shall not worship a foreign god.

10 I am the Lord your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,

‘Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.’ ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(2Cor. 4. 5-12)*

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 2. 23 – 3. 6)*

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’ And he said to them, ‘Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.’ Then he said to them, ‘The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.’ Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come forward.’ Then he said to them, ‘Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**ASH WEDNESDAY**   **[YEARS A, B and C]**

*Lenten array or violet*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

**THE GATHERING**

The choir, servers and ministers enter in silence. Please stand:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All: and also with you.

Priest: Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church’s fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ your son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Ash Wednesday*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Joel** *(Joel 2. 1–2, 12–17)*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 58. 1–12)*

Thus says the Lord: Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 51. 1-18**

***REFRAIN* Have mercy on me, O God,**

**[and cleanse me from my sin].**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your loving-kindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offences.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness

and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight. ***Refrain***

5 And so you are justified when you speak

and upright in your judgement. ***Refrain***

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

a sinner from my mother’s womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure;

wash me and I shall be clean indeed. ***Refrain***

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me. ***Refrain***

12 Cast me not away from your presence

and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked,

and sinners shall return to you. ***Refrain***

15 Deliver me from death, O God,

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,

O God of my salvation. ***Refrain***

16 Open my lips, O Lord,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. ***Refrain***

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,

but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 5. 20b – 6. 10)*

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated to sing the Lenten Prose:*

Choir: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir: To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir: O thou chief Cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father: Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir: God, we implore Thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses:

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir Sins oft committed now we lay before thee: with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir: Innocent captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced: save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

**GOSPEL *(alternative readings)***

*The Church of England provides an alternative* [*(John 8.1–11)*](#GospJn8v1to11) *to the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel.*

***either Church of England or Revised Common Lectionary***

Priest Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *(Mt 6. 1–6, 16–21)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***or***

Priest Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 8. 1–11)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all the people, they said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ They said this to test Jesus, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, sir.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

Priest: Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

*Please kneel*

Reader: God the Father,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: God the Son,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: God the Holy Spirit,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: From the sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: In all times of sorrow, in all times of joy; in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by your preaching of the kingdom,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Reader: Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

Priest: Make our hearts clean, O God,

All: and renew a right spirit within us

All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen

**The Imposition of Ashes**

Priest: As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

*The congregation are invited to come to kneel at the altar rail to receive the imposition of ashes. At the imposition, the priest says to each person:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*When all who wish have received the imposition of ashes:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

Eucharistic Prayer C *(please kneel)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are

*(sing)* full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

*(sing)* You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest: Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in you manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty God,

you have given your only Son to be for us

both a sacrifice for sin

and also an example of godly life:

give us grace

that we may always most thankfully receive

these his inestimable gifts,

and also daily endeavour to follow

the blessed steps of his most holy life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

All: Amen.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**LENT 1**   **[YEAR B]**

*Lenten array or violet*

*Done for 2015*

*The Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness to prepare him for his ministry. On this first Sunday of Lent, let us pray that we will be inspired to spread the good news of God's love.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| And can it be |  | *o, e* | 376 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| As the deer pants for the water (Ny) |  | *e* |  | 259 |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Father, hear the prayer we offer |  | *s* | 416 |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| Forty days and forty nights | *ga/gr* | *g* | 95 |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| I bind unto myself today |  | *g* | 203 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesu, lover of my soul | *of* | *e* | 96 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Just as I am, without one plea | *of/cm* | *e* | 308 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us | *pc* | *o* | 496 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Lord Jesus, think on me | *ga* | *g* | 97 |  |  |  |  |  |
| May the mind of Christ our Saviour |  | *s* | 521 |  |  |  |  |  |
| O love that wilt not let me go |  | *o* | 542 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| O love how deep, how broad, how ... | *of* | *g* | 118 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The kingdom of God is justice and |  | *g* | 591 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| And can it be |  |  | 376 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Make me a channel | *child* |  | 519 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Soul of my Saviour | *cm* |  | 322 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| There is a Redeemer | *child* |  |  | 315 | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Through the night of doubt and s... | *of* |  | 605 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Thou whose almighty Word | *pc* |  | 267 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| We pray thee, heavenly Father | *of* |  | 331 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ps 25. 1-9 (Anglican Chant) |  |  |  |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

*RL Roman Lectionary*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

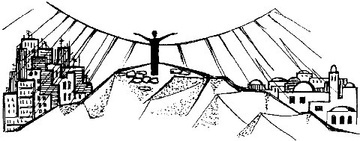
*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*



***The Word This Week***

We begin our Lenten journey at the decisive moment of the flood, when God establishes his first Covenant with man, in the person of Noah. Noah was saved from the waters, while we (as Saint Peter points out) are saved by the waters of Baptism. This is the Covenant we live in, thanks to Christ, who came to establish this “new and eternal Covenant in his blood”. He is the only one who can do this, because he is without sin, despite “having been tempted in every way that we are”.

***Today’s Readings***

**First Reading:** Genesis 9:8-17

God makes the rainbow the sign of his covenant with all people for all time. The rainbow is there to remind us of God's faithfulness and commitment to the whole of creation.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

Peter draws a parallel between the water of the flood which cleansed the earth, and the water of baptism which brings salvation through the resurrection of Christ.

**Gospel** Mark 1:9-15

When Jesus was baptised by John he heard God's voice reassuring him and affirming his identity. But before he begins his ministry among the people he has to spend some time in the desert enduring fierce temptation.

***Notes for Readers***

**First Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15.

The fact that the word ‘covenant’ occurs five times in this reading tells us what it is about. A Covenant is a relationship, pact or agreement between two parties - here between God and man. We read this today because it is the first definitive step God takes (after things have gone wrong in the Garden of Eden) to put things right with his creation. We will be following the story of God’s relationship with the human race over the next five weeks, to help us understand the meaning of the “new and eternal covenant” Jesus forges in his blood. This is a solemn proclamation - God speaks, and when God speaks, it happens. Read these words with a sense of awe: this is an incredible moment of human history, when the all-powerful God freely chooses to enter into a relationship with humanity. The one problem with this reading is that it is out of context: the first line, and the references to the flood are the only clue that people will have as to what is going on - so take special care to say the name of Noah very clearly. Also underline the formal declaration “See, I establish my Covenant with you...” Also emphasise the universal nature of this covenant - “with you...every living creature...everything that lives on earth.”

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22.

The Second Reading on these Sundays of Lent always acts as a bridge between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel. Here Peter links Noah with Christ: there are two types of water: the waters of the flood, which saved the few who believed, and the waters of baptism, which saved us.  This is a very difficult reading! It is very “theological”, and the sentences are long and complicated. You must practice this out loud beforehand; otherwise it will come over as nonsense. For each sentence, try to find the main clause, and separate it out from the surrounding bits: so the main clause of the first sentence is: “Christ... died for sins,... to lead us to God.” Then it leads to the “spirits in prison” (= those who lived before Good Friday), and their refusing to believe at the time of Noah. Then the final sentence: the word “type” is a technical word, meaning a “foreshadowing”: it is not a physical washing, but a pledge, through Jesus’ resurrection.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

***or***

We all know that there have been many times when we have failed to recognise or respond to the gospel. Let us ask God to forgive us for our blindness and to help us to see him in our daily lives.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves

in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,

so may we know your power to save;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Lent 1*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 9 .8–17)*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 25. 1-10**

***REFRAIN* Your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness**

**[to those who keep your covenant].**

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

my God, I put my trust in you;

let me not be humiliated,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame;

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.  ***Refrain***

3 Show me your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.  ***Refrain***

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth

and my transgressions;

remember me according to your love

and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.  ***Refrain***

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right

and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

10 For your name’s sake, O Lord,

forgive my sin, for it is great.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter** *(1 Per 3. 18–22)*

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 1. 9-15)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with Propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Lord God,

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith,

increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him

who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word

that proceeds from out of your mouth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May the Lord lead and guide you on your Lenten journey.

May Christ comfort and heal you in all your daily struggles.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with renewed zeal and energy.

And may you be blessed by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

in all your days. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**LENT 2**  [YEAR C]

*Lenten array or violet*

*Done for 2006*

***Introduction***

*This Lenten Sunday challenges us to have the mind and way of God as made known by Christ. The life God purposes for us is not found in self-centredness, but by taking the way of the cross, of defeating evil with the costliness of grace.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| And can it be |  | e | 376 |  |  |  |  |  |
| At the name of Jesus | of | e | 380 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Be thou my guardian and my guide |  | o, e | 385 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beneath the cross of Jesus |  | g | 105 |  |  |  |  |  |
| I the Lord of sea and sky |  | g | 470 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| In the cross of Christ I glory | ga | g | 480 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesu, grant me this, I pray | cm | s | 110 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesu, lover of my soul |  | e | 96 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Light of the minds that know him | pc | g | 501 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lord Jesus, think on me |  | s | 97 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, teach us how to pray aright |  | s | 98 |  |  |  |  |  |
| My faith looks up to thee |  | e | 522 |  |  |  |  |  |
| New every morning is the love | ga | g | 6 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Take up thy cross, the Saviour said | gr | g | 582 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The God of Abraham praise | of | o | 586 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Will you come and follow me | pc | g | 622 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Dear Lord and Father of mankind |  |  | 411 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Forth in the peace of Christ we go | pc |  | 429 |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Lord of beauty, thine the splendour |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Spirit of God, unseen as the wind |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today’s Readings***

**First Reading** Genesis 17:1-7. 15-16

God promises to faithful Abraham the land of Canaan, numerous descendants and a son by his barren wife. The promise is an indissoluble covenant.

**Second Reading** Romans 4:13-25

Abraham trusted God utterly, which rightly related him to God. All, of whatever nation, who so trust God are Abraham's spiritual descendants.

**Gospel** Mark 8:31-38

Acknowledged as the Christ by St. Peter, Jesus proceeds to tell the disciples what kind of Messiah he must be and from what he would deliver humankind.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted

into the fellowship of Christ’s religion,

that they may reject those things

that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.  **Amen** *Lent 2*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 17. 1–7, 15–16)*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.’ God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 22. 22-30**

***REFRAIN* All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him;

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor

the poor in their poverty;

neither does he hide his face from them;

but when they cry to him he hears them.  ***Refrain***

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

‘May your heart live for ever!’  ***Refrain***

26 All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations

shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;

he rules over the nations.  ***Refrain***

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth

bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;

they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deeds that he has done.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom 4.13–25)*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’) – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations,’ according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him,’ were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

***The***[*Revised Common Lectionary*](#Lent2RCLgospel)***provides alternative Gospel readings. Church of England provision allows only the first of these (Mark 8. 31-38):***

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk. 8. 31-38)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: In the shelter of God's wings may we know his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with Propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty God,

you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:

keep us both outwardly in our bodies,

and inwardly in our souls;

that we may be defended from all adversities

which may happen to the body,

and from all evil thoughts

which may assault and hurt the soul;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May the cross of Christ be our glory.

May the limitless love of God be our security.

May the wisdom of the Spirit be our guide;

and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be yours now and forever. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY ONLY**

Priest Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk. 9. 2-9)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**LENT 3**  [YEAR B]

*Lenten array or violet*

*Done for 2006*

***Introduction***

*God's law of love and justice gives wisdom to the simple and provides a path to follow and the best way to live. In this service let us pray that we will be able to follow this path and unite ourselves more closely with God.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Exodus 20:1-17

God gives the ten commandments to Moses and all the Israelites. It provides them with a rule to live by and reminds them of the centrality of God's love and presence in their lives.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

God sees things differently from humans. What we see as wisdom may be utter foolishness to God and what we see as disaster may be the very opposite.

**Gospel** John 2:13-22

Jesus was angry because people were using the temple, designed for the worship of God, as a marketplace – a centre of trade and fraud.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

***or***

God extends to us the protection of his love and invites us to accept it.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy

but first he suffered pain,

and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.  **Amen** *Lent* *3*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Exodus 20.1–17)*

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 19**

***REFRAIN* You, Lord, have the words of eternal life.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* The statutes of the Lord are just**

**and rejoice the heart.**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another,

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language,

and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands,

and their message to the ends of the world.  ***Refrain***

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens

and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.  ***Refrain***

7 The law of the Lord is perfect

and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes.  ***Refrain***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean

and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey,

than honey in the comb.  ***Refrain***

11 By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offence.  ***Refrain***

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1Cor 1.18–25)*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 2. 13-22)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ They then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with Propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations

of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,

the only God;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May God the Father protect you.

May God the Son keep you in his love.

May God the Holy Spirit guide you in the ways of peace.

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.  *(RCL)*

**LENT 3 YEAR B**

**FIRST READING**

**PSALM**

**SECOND READING**

**GOSPEL**

**Introduction to the Peace**

God's law of love enables us to live in peace and harmony with one another.

Let us encourage one another to do so in every way.

The peace of the Lord....

**Blessing**

May you always know the love of God for you.

May you have the courage to put his laws above all others.

And may you always be blessed with the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Collect**

**Post Communion**

**LENT 4**   **[YEAR C]**

*Lenten array or violet*

*Provision for Lent 4 is included in the Revised Common Lectionary and the Church of England provision, but the Church of England adds alternative readings for* [*Mothering Sunday*](#MotheringSunN)*.*

*Lent is a time for turning towards the life that we are offered in Christ Jesus. It is time to turn away from all that makes us less human and to prepare ourselves to embrace the new life that we are continually offered in the Easter Resurrection.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

We hear of the wonderful bronze serpent which could save those who looked upon it. It would be a sign of things to come.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 2:1-10

Paul tells the Christians at Ephesus to take comfort because even in their sin they are saved through the generosity and grace of God.

**Gospel** John 3:14-21

Jesus explains to Nicodemus that God sent his Son to save the world, not condemn it. All who believe in him will be saved.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

***or***

Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. Gathered here around the table of the Lord we remember God's compassion and merciful forgiveness.

***Collect***

Merciful Lord,

absolve your people from their offences,

that through your bountiful goodness

we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins

which by our frailty we have committed;

grant this, heavenly Father,

for Jesus Christ’s sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Lent 4*

***or continuous form:***

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Numbers** *(Num 21. 4–9)*

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 107. 1-3, 17-22**

***REFRAIN* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,**

# and his mercy endures for ever.

***or***

***REFRAIN* Give thanks to the Lord for his mercy.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

and his mercy endures for ever. ***Refrain***

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim

that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands;

from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south. ***Refrain***

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;

they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food

and drew near to death’s door.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress. ***Refrain***

20 He sent forth his word and healed them

and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy

and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving

and tell of his acts with shouts of joy. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians** *(Ephes 2.1–10)*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 3. 14-21)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Lord God,

whose blessed Son our Saviour

gave his back to the smiters

and did not hide his face from shame:

give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time

with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May you know God's welcome in each new day's morning.

May you know Christ's peace in the busyness of noonday.

May the Spirit be with you all your days.

And may the blessing of the Most Holy Trinity,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**   **[YEARS A, B AND C]**

*Lenten array or violet*

*Provision for* [*Lent 4*](#Lent4N) *is included in the Revised Common Lectionary and the Church of England provision, but the Church of England adds alternative readings for Mothering Sunday.*

*For Mothering Sunday, two options are given, and these follow as* [*option 1*](#MotheringSunOtpion1N)  *and* [*option 2*](#MotheringSunOtpion2N) *:*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***OPTION 1***  *(for Option 2,* [*click here*](#MotheringSunOtpion2N) *)*

**Introduction**

*Today is Mothering Sunday. We thank God for all that we owe to our mothers and we ask God's blessing on our homes and families and on Mother Church.*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Exodus 2:1-10

Moses survives infancy by an act of Providence. Hidden in the bulrushes by his Jewish mother he enjoys a privileged childhood as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.

**Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

The blessings we receive at the hand of the merciful God are validated by the extent to which we hand them on to those in need of help.

**Gospel** Luke 2: 33-35

Joseph and Mary are taken aback by Simeon's recognition of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. He will be to others variously bane and blessing. Even his mother will be hurt by what will happen to him.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith. *(CW for Lent)*

***or***

Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God’s family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness. *(CW)*

***or***

God knew us before we were even born. He has cared for us more than even the most loving of human parents. Let's thank him for his care, and confess that we haven't always cared for others in the same way. *(RCL)*

***Collect***

God of compassion,

whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,

shared the life of a home in Nazareth,

and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence

to bind together and to heal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Mothering Sunday (1)*

***or continuous form:***

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(for alternative reading, see Option 2:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunFR2) ***)***

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex 2.1–10)*

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because,’ she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM *(for alternative psalm, see Option 2:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunPs2) ***)***

**Psalm 34. 11-20**

***REFRAIN* [Come, children, and listen to me:]**

# I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

11 Come, children, and listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who among you loves life

and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? ***Refrain***

13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking

and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good;

seek peace and pursue it. ***Refrain***

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,

and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,

to root out the remembrance of them from the earth. ***Refrain***

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them

and delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the broken-hearted

and will save those whose spirits are crushed. ***Refrain***

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,

but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

20 He will keep safe all his bones;

not one of them shall be broken. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(for alternative reading, see Option 2:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunSR2) ***)***

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 1.3–7)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL *(for alternative reading, see Option 2:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunG2) ***)***

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(****Lk 2.33–35)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**THE INTERCESSIONS**

***either***

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in the union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

(All kneel)

Leader: We pray for the family of the Church, for loving relationships,

and for the life of families around us, saying:

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, born in poverty and soon a refugee,

be with families today who are poor and live in hunger and want …

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, who grew in wisdom and in favour with God and the people

in the family of Joseph the carpenter,

bring wisdom and the presence of God

into the work and growth of families today …

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, who blessed marriage in the wedding at Cana,

be with those preparing for marriage

and with those who come to the end of their resources …

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, who healed Simon Peter’s mother in law,

bring healing to hurt relationships and families today …

Hear our prayers for those who are ill, including …

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, who on the cross said,

“Mother, behold your son”,

provide today for those who lose their families,

the bereaved and childless, orphans and widows …

Hear us, Father, as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, including … who have died recently and now share with you in your eternal and glorious kingdom.

We also pray for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, remembering by name… According to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, who on the seashore provided food for the disciples,

bring the whole Church on earth and in heaven

into your risen presence

to eat at the eternal banquet.

Leader: Jesus, Lord of love:

All: in your mercy, hear us,

accept our prayers and be with us always. Amen. *(Patterns p.82)*

***or***

Leader: Sovereign Lord, your Son has revealed you as our heavenly Father,

from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer.

Leader: You have made your Church a spiritual family, a household of faith.

Through baptism we are reborn as the brothers and sisters of Christ.

Deepen our unity and fellowship in him.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer.

Leader: You sent your Son to give his life as a ransom for the whole human family.

Give justice, peace and racial harmony to the world he died to save.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer.

Leader: You gave your Son a share in the life of a family in Nazareth.

Help us to value our families, to be thankful for them,

and to live sensitively within them.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer.

Leader: Your Son drew around him a company of friends.

Bring love and joy to all who are alone.

Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer.

Leader: You are the God of the dead as well as the living.

In confidence we remember those of the household of faith who have gone before us.

Bring us with them to the joy of your home in heaven.

Father of all:

All: hear your children’s prayer. *(Patterns p. 83)*

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: We are the family of God, brothers and sisters in Christ our Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because in his earthly childhood you entrusted him to the care of a human family. In Mary and Joseph you gave us an example of love and devotion to him, and also a pattern for family life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Loving God,

as a mother feeds her children at the breast

you feed us in this sacrament

with the food and drink of eternal life:

help us who have tasted your goodness

to grow in grace within the household of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

May God the Holy Trinity, Family Divine, hold you in safe keeping and grant you love and joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(RCL)*

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**   **[YEARS A, B AND C]**

*Lenten array or violet*

*Provision for Lent 4 is included in the Revised Common Lectionary and the Church of England provision, but the Church of England adds alternative readings for Mothering Sunday.*

*For Mothering Sunday, two options are given, and these follow as* [*option 1*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunO1) *and* [*option 2*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunO2)*:*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***OPTI******ON 2***  *(for Option 1,* [*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunO1) *)*

*Today is Mothering Sunday. It is a time to thank God for our mothers and all they have done for us. But it is also a time when we think about wider family relationships. So we shall hear how Jesus has given us a model to follow, and a challenge to rise to.*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** 1 Samuel 1:20-28

One of the greatest marks of thankfulness is sacrifice. Hannah, deeply thankful for the birth of her son Samuel, offers him back to God to become a priest and a prophet.

**Second Reading** Colossians 3:12-17

We all know that love should be the hallmark of Christian living. Here, Paul tells us what that love is to be like in practice.

**Gospel** John 19:25-27

In his dying moments, Jesus fulfils his family responsibilities by providing for the welfare of his mother.

***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith. *(CW for Lent)*

***or***

Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God’s family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness. *(CW)*

***or***

God knew us before we were even born. He has cared for us more than even the most loving of human parents. Let's thank him for his care, and confess that we haven't always cared for others in the same way. *(RCL)*

***Collect***

God of compassion,

whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,

shared the life of a home in Nazareth,

and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence

to bind together and to heal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Mothering Sunday (2)*

***or continuous form:***

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(for alternative reading, see Option 1:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunFR1) ***)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 1. 20–28) 2004*

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked him of the Lord.’ The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.’ Her husband Elkanah said to her, ‘Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only – may the Lord establish his word.’ So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.’ She left him there for the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM *(for alternative psalm, see Option 1:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunPs1) ***)***

**Psalm 127. 1-4**

***REFRAIN* It is the Lord who builds the house.**

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,

their labour is in vain who build it.

2 Unless the Lord watches over the city,

in vain the guard keeps vigil. ***Refrain***

3 It is in vain that you rise so early

and go to bed so late;

vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,

for he gives to his belovèd sleep.

4 Children are a heritage from the Lord,

and the fruit of the womb is a gift. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(for alternative reading, see Option 1:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunSR1) ***)***

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians** *(Col 3.12–17) 1999*

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL *(for alternative reading, see Option 1:*** [***click here***](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunG1) ***)***

Priest The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 19. 25b–27)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***For Intercessions,*** [click here](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#MothSunI)

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called in one body.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[for Mothering Sunday]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because in his earthly childhood you entrusted him to the care of a human family. In Mary and Joseph you gave us an example of love and devotion to him, and also a pattern for family life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E (Lent 4)***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout (Lent 4):***

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and *saying*:

For **Eucharistic Prayer C** with propers for Lent 1-4 [click here](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#EuchPrayerCLent1to4)

***Post communion prayer***

Loving God,

as a mother feeds her children at the breast

you feed us in this sacrament

with the food and drink of eternal life:

help us who have tasted your goodness

to grow in grace within the household of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May the love of the Father fill our hearts. May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes. And may the grace of the Holy Spirit bind us together in love in our families and community; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**LENT 5 YEAR B**

**Introduction and call to worship**

*Today we think about the secret of eternal life: if we are prepared to die to self we can hope to live with God forever. The true disciple of Christ is the one who follows him, whatever it costs.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

**Invitation to confession**

God offers us life in all its fullness, but so often we do not recognise the life he gives and we follow our own desires instead of God's. Let us turn to God for his mercy and kindness.

**Collect:**

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Lent 5 Collect etc*

**First Reading** Jeremiah 31:31-34

God promises a new covenant – that is, an agreement between him and the people of Israel – when he will deal with sin once and for all so that his people can know him intimately.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 5:5-10

Jesus was appointed by God to be the perfect high priest – our salvation has come about through Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father.

**Gospel** John 12:20-33

Jesus prepares his disciples for the events ahead of him when he knows he is about to die. He tells them the difficult truth about the need to follow him: that they must make him the absolute priority in their lives.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah** *(Jer 31.31–34)*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Either Psalm 51.1–12**

***REFRAIN* A clean heart create in me, O God.**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your loving-kindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offences.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness

and cleanse me from my sin.  ***REFRAIN***

3 For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak

and upright in your judgement.  ***REFRAIN***

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

a sinner from my mother’s womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  ***REFRAIN***

8 Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure;

wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,

that the body you have broken may rejoice.  ***REFRAIN***

10 Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence

and take not your holy Spirit from me.  ***REFRAIN***

**Or Psalm 119.9–16**

***REFRAIN* O Lord, how I love your law.**

9 How shall the young cleanse their way?

By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not stray from your commandments.  ***REFRAIN***

11 I treasure your promise in my heart,

that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessèd are you, O Lord;

instruct me in your statutes.  ***REFRAIN***

13 With my lips will I recite

all the judgements of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees

than in all manner of riches.  ***REFRAIN***

15 I will meditate on your commandments

and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.  ***REFRAIN***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 5.5–10)*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’; as he says also in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 12. 20-35)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – “Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**Introduction to the Peace**

Let us strive to do all we can to live in peace with God, with other people and with ourselves.

The peace of the Lord..

**Blessing**

May the Father bless you with his presence;

may the Son walk with you on your way;

may the Spirit inspire you with his love;

and may Almighty God bless you,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us

that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters

we do also for you:

give us the will to be the servant of others,

as you were the servant of all,

and gave up your life and died for us,

but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

**LENT 6 Palm Sunday**   **[YEAR B]**

*Red*

***Hymns:***

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*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

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*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 50:4-9a

Prophets of God often suffer abuse and ridicule. But the truly faithful will not turn away from their detractors. And they will never be shamed because the Lord is with them.

**Second Reading** Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus did not use his relationship with God for power purposes and neither should we. Instead, God rewards true humility with a different order of greatness.

**Gospel / Passion**

# THE GATHERING AND LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Those who are able to walk across are invited to meet in the Hall

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The introduction and blessing of palms:*

Priest: Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Please hold up your palms:

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

***either***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk. 11. 1-11)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## This is the Gospel of the Lord

# All: Praise to you O Christ.

Priest: Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah

***or***

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(John 12.12–16)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!’ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!’ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Priest: Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah

**PSALM**

**Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-29**

***REFRAIN* This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim,

‘His mercy endures for ever.’ ***Refrain***

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 ‘This is the gate of the Lord;

whoever is righteous may enter.’ ***Refrain***

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief corner-stone. ***Refrain***

23 This is the Lord’s doing,

and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted;

we will rejoice and be glad in it. ***Refrain***

25 Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!

Lord, send us now success.

26 Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of the Lord. ***Refrain***

27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;

form a procession with branches

up to the horns of the altar.

28 ‘You are my God and I will thank you;

you are my God and I will exalt you.’

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever. ***Refrain***

***Invitation to Confession (confession normally omitted on Palm Sunday)***

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

***or***

Throughout his own sufferings Jesus continued to demonstrate his Father's love and forgiveness which is freely available to all those who call upon him.

***Collect***

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh

and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example

of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Lent* *6*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 50. 4–9a)*

The servant of the Lord said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide may face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 31. 9-16**

***REFRAIN* My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

***or***

***REFRAIN* I have trusted in you.**

**You are my God.**

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow,

and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction,

and my bones are consumed. ***Refrain***

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies

and even to my neighbours,

a dismay to those of my acquaintance;

when they see me in the street they avoid me. ***Refrain***

12 I am forgotten like the dead, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;

fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me

they plot to take away my life ***Refrain***

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, ‘You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,

and in your loving-kindness save me.’ ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians** *(Phil 2. 5–11)*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PASSION *(long or short reading) – for the dramatic version,*** [***click here***](#PassionMark)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark

*(Mark 14.1 – 15.47 or Mark 15.1–39, (40–47))*

[ 1 It was two days before the Passover

and the festival of Unleavened Bread.

The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way

to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him;

2 for they said,

‘Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.’

3 While he 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 costly ointment of nard,

and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

4 But some were there who said to one another in anger,

‘Why was the ointment wasted in this way?

5 For this ointment could have been sold

for more than three hundred denarii,

and the money given to the poor.’

And they scolded her.

6 But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; why do you trouble her?

She has performed a good service for me.

7 For you always have the poor with you,

and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish;

but you will not always have me.

8 She has done what she could;

she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.

9 Truly I tell you,

wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world,

what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.’

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve,

went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.

11 When they heard it, they were greatly pleased,

and promised to give him money.

So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread,

when the Passover lamb is sacrificed,

his disciples said to him,

‘Where do you want us to go and make the preparations

for you to eat the Passover?’

13 So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

‘Go into the city,

and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you;

follow him, and wherever he enters,

14 say to the owner of the house,

“The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room

where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”

15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready.

Make preparations for us there.’

16 So the disciples set out and went to the city,

and found everything as he had told them;

and they prepared the Passover meal.

17 When it was evening, he came with the twelve.

18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me,

one who is eating with me.’

19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

‘Surely, not I?’

20 He said to them,

‘It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.

21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him,

but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!

It would have been better for that one not to have been born.’

22 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread,

and after blessing it he broke it,

gave it to them, and said,

‘Take; this is my body.’

23 Then he took a cup,

and after giving thanks he gave it to them,

and all of them drank from it.

24 He said to them,

‘This is my blood of the covenant,

which is poured out for many.

25 Truly I tell you,

I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day

when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’

26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

27 And Jesus said to them,

‘You will all become deserters; for it is written,

“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.’

29 Peter said to him,

‘Even though all become deserters, I will not.’

30 Jesus said to him,

‘Truly I tell you,

this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice,

you will deny me three times.’

31 But he said vehemently,

‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’

And all of them said the same.

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane;

and he said to his disciples,

‘Sit here while I pray.’

33 He took with him Peter and James and John,

and began to be distressed and agitated.

34 And said to them,

‘I am deeply grieved, even to death;

remain here, and keep awake.’

35 And going a little farther,

he threw himself on the ground and prayed that,

if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible;

remove this cup from me;

yet, not what I want, but what you want.’

37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

‘Simon, are you asleep?

Could you not keep awake one hour?

38 Keep awake

and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;

the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’

39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

40 And once more he came and found them sleeping,

for their eyes were very heavy;

and they did not know what to say to him.

41 He came a third time and said to them,

‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?

Enough! The hour has come;

the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Get up, let us be going.

See, my betrayer is at hand.’

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking,

Judas, one of the twelve, arrived;

and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs,

from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

‘The one I will kiss is the man;

arrest him and lead him away under guard.’

45 So when he came,

he went up to him at once and said,

‘Rabbi!’ and kissed him.

46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword

and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48 Then Jesus said to them,

‘Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me

as though I were a bandit?

49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching,

and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.’

50 All of them deserted him and fled.

51 A certain young man was following Jesus,

wearing nothing but a linen cloth.

They caught hold of him,

52 but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

53 They took Jesus to the high priest;

and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

54 Peter had followed him at a distance,

right into the courtyard of the high priest;

and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council

were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death;

but they found none.

56 For many gave false testimony against him,

and their testimony did not agree.

57 Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

58 ‘We heard him say,

“I will destroy this temple that is made with hands,

and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.”’

59 But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

‘Have you no answer?

What is it that they testify against you?’

61 But he was silent and did not answer.

Again the high priest asked him,

‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?’

62 Jesus said, ‘I am;

and “you will see the Son of Man

seated at the right hand of the Power,”

and “coming with the clouds of heaven.”’

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

‘Why do we still need witnesses?

64 You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?’

All of them condemned him as deserving death.

65 Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him,

and to strike him, saying to him,

‘Prophesy!’

The guards also took him over and beat him.

66 While Peter was below in the courtyard,

one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.

67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

‘You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.’

68 But he denied it, saying,

‘I do not know or understand what you are talking about.’

And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.

69 And the servant-girl, on seeing him,

began again to say to the bystanders,

‘This man is one of them.’

70 But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

‘Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.’

71 But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

‘I do not know this man you are talking about.’

72 At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.

Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’

And he broke down and wept. ]

1 As soon as it was morning,

the chief priests held a consultation

with the elders and scribes and the whole council.

They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

2 Pilate asked him,

‘Are you the King of the Jews?’

He answered him, ‘You say so.’

3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

4 Pilate asked him again,

‘Have you no answer?

See how many charges they bring against you.’

5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them,

anyone for whom they asked.

7 Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels

who had committed murder during the insurrection.

8 So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate

to do for them according to his custom.

9 Then he answered them,

‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’

10 For he realized that it was out of jealousy

that the chief priests had handed him over.

11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd

to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

12 Pilate spoke to them again,

‘Then what do you wish me to do with the man

you call the King of the Jews?’

13 They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’

14 Pilate asked them,

‘Why, what evil has he done?’

But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him!’

15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,

released Barabbas for them;

and after flogging Jesus,

he handed him over to be crucified.

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace

(that is, the governor’s headquarters);

and they called together the whole cohort.

17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak;

and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

18 And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’

19 They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him,

and knelt down in homage to him.

20 After mocking him,

they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him.

Then they led him out to crucify him.

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country,

to carry his cross;

it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

22 Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha

(which means the place of a skull).

23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh;

but he did not take it.

24 And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them,

casting lots to decide what each should take.

25 It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.

26 The inscription of the charge against him read,

‘The King of the Jews.’

27 And with him they crucified two bandits,

one on his right and one on his left.

29 Those who passed by derided him,

shaking their heads and saying,

‘Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,

30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!’

31 In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes,

were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

‘He saved others; he cannot save himself.

32 Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now,

so that we may see and believe.’

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

33 When it was noon,

darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

34 At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’

which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’

35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’

36 And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine,

put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’

37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39 Now when the centurion,

who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last,

he said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’

[40 There were also women looking on from a distance;

among them were Mary Magdalene,

and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

41 These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee;

and there were many other women

who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

42 When evening had come,

and since it was the day of Preparation,

that is, the day before the sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council,

who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God,

went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

44 Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead;

and summoning the centurion,

he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.

45 When he learned from the centurion that he was dead,

he granted the body to Joseph.

46 Then Joseph bought a linen cloth,

and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth,

and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses

saw where the body was laid. ]

## DRAMATIC READING OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK

*Mark 14 and 15*

***The reading is neither announced nor concluded***

**The Passion Narrative to be read on Palm Sunday.**

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.

And they went to a place called Gethsemene; and he said to his disciples:

Jesus Sit here, while I pray.

Evangelist And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them:

Jesus My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch.

Evangelist And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him:

Jesus Abba, Father, all things are possible to you; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will.

Evangelist And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:

Peter Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time, and said to them:

Jesus Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them this sign:

Judas The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away safely.

Evangelist And when he came, he went up to him at once, and said:

Judas Master!

Evangelist And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them:

Jesus Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day, I was with you in the Temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.

Evangelist And they all forsook him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

And they led Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the scribes and the elders were assembled. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, and warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, and their witness did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him:

Witnesses We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'

Evangelist Yet not even so did their testimony agree. And the high priest stood up in their midst, and asked Jesus:

High priest Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?

Evangelist But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him:

High priest Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

Jesus I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the great clouds of heaven.

Evangelist And the high priest tore his mantle, and said:

High priest Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your decision?

Evangelist And the all began to condemn him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to strike him, saying to him:

Scribes Prophesy!

Evangelist And the guards received him with blows.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said:

Maid You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter I neither know nor understand what you mean.

Evangelist And he went out into the gateway. And the maid saw him, and again began to say to the bystanders:

Maid This man is one of them.

Evangelist But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter:

Bystanders Certainly you are one of them: for you are a Galilean.

Evangelist But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear:

Peter I do not know this man of whom you speak.

Evangelist And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and the scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate, and Pilate asked him:

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You have said so.

Evangelist And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him:

Pilate Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.

Evangelist But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered. Now at the feast, he used to release for them any one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was wont to do for them. And he answered them:

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them:

Pilate Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?

**Crowd Crucify him! Crucify him!**

Pilate Why? What evil has he done?

**Crowd** *(louder)* **Crucify him. Crucify him!**

Evangelist So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas: and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

***(Please stand:)***

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the Praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. And they began to salute him:

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour, when they crucified him.. And the inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews'. And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads:

Passers-by Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

Evangelist So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes:

Priests: He saved other: he cannot save himself. Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we many see and believe.

Evangelist Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice:

Jesus Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?

Evangelist Which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And some of the bystanders hearing it said:

Bystanders Behold, he is calling Elijah.

Evangelist And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink:

Bystander Wait; let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Evangelist And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. And the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said:

Centurion Truly this man was the Son of God!

*(Please be seated.)*

***The Intercessions for Palm Sunday***

Priest: Let us pray

(all kneel)

Intercessor: We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those who still make Jerusalem a battle-ground, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement; for those who have asked our prayers including: …; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: That we, with those who have died in faith, including … - and those whose anniversaries fall today, including … - may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Intercessor: We offer these prayers to you, heavenly Father, in faith and love

All: Holy God,

holy and strong,

holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Our greatest cause for celebration is the life of Christ, his sacrifice and his presence with us. And at the heart of our celebration is the sense of peace which only Christ can bring. Let us offer this gift to one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Passion Sunday to the Wednesday in Holy Week]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

***Alternative Short Preface - The Holy Cross (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because for our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and just,

our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere

to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near

the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross

reveals the judgement that has come upon the world

and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,

the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,

our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,

exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,

for ever praising you and saying:

Eucharistic Prayer A  *[please kneel]*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives forever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and singing*:*

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Priest: Jesus Christ is Lord

All: Lord, by your death and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise*:*

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

*or*

Eucharistic Prayer E *(please kneel)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Priest: Jesus Christ is Lord

All: Lord, by your death and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest: Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Andrew and all the saintsto feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

***Post communion prayer***

Lord Jesus Christ,

you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,

and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:

give us the mind to follow you

and to proclaim you as Lord and King,

to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May you live to celebrate the Father's enduring love.

May you live to celebrate Christ's triumph over death.

May you live to celebrate new life in the Spirit.

And the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with and remain with you always.  **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**MONDAY****, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**   **[A B C]**

*Red*

***Invitation to Confession***

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

***or***

Throughout his own sufferings Jesus continued to demonstrate his Father's love and forgiveness which is freely available to all those who call upon him.

***Collect***

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh

and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example

of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Holy* *Week*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***For readings for Monday in Holy Week*** [***click here***](#HolyWeekMonday)

***For readings for Tuesday in Holy Week*** [***click here***](#HolyWeekTuesday)

***For readings for Wednesday in Holy Week*** [***click here***](#HolyWeekWednesday)

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Our greatest cause for celebration is the life of Christ, his sacrifice and his presence with us. And at the heart of our celebration is the sense of peace which only Christ can bring. Let us offer this gift to one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Passion Sunday to the Wednesday in Holy Week]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

***Alternative Short Preface - The Holy Cross (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because for our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and just,

our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere

to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near

the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross

reveals the judgement that has come upon the world

and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,

the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,

our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,

exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,

for ever praising you and saying:

Eucharistic Prayer A  *[please kneel]*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives forever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and singing*:*

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Priest: Jesus Christ is Lord

All: Lord, by your death and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise*:*

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

*or*

Eucharistic Prayer E *(please kneel)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Priest: Jesus Christ is Lord

All: Lord, by your death and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest: Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Andrew and all the saintsto feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

***Post communion prayer***

Lord Jesus Christ,

you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,

and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:

give us the mind to follow you

and to proclaim you as Lord and King,

to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

May you live to celebrate the Father's enduring love.

May you live to celebrate Christ's triumph over death.

May you live to celebrate new life in the Spirit.

And the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with and remain with you always.  **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**Monday** **in Holy Week**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa. 42.1–9)*

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

**Psalm 36. 5-11**

***REFRAIN* With you is the well of life,**

# and in your light we see light.

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,

and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,

your justice like the great deep;

you save both human and beast, O Lord. ***Refrain***

7 How priceless is your love, O God!

your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house;

you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life,

and in your light we see light. ***Refrain***

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,

and your favour to those who are true of heart.

11 Let not the foot of the proud come near me,

nor the hand of the wicked push me aside. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb. 9.11–15)*

Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation). He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PASSION**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John** *(Jn 12.1–11)*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

**TUESDAY** **OF HOLY WEEK YEARS A B C**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah *(Isa. 49. 1-7)***

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother’s womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ But I said, ‘I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.’ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength. The Lord says, ‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, ‘Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

**Psalm 71. 1-14**

***REFRAIN* You are my hope, O Lord my God,**

# [my mouth shall be full of your praise].

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;

let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;

incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;

you are my crag and my stronghold. ***Refrain***

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord God,

my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

from my mother’s womb you have been my strength;

my praise shall be always of you. ***Refrain***

7 I have become a portent to many;

but you are my refuge and my strength.

8 Let my mouth be full of your praise

and your glory all the day long.

9 Do not cast me off in my old age;

forsake me not when my strength fails. ***Refrain***

10 For my enemies are talking against me,

and those who lie in wait for my life

take counsel together.

11 They say, ‘God has forsaken him;

go after him and seize him;

because there is none who will save.’

12 O God, be not far from me;

come quickly to help me, O my God. ***Refrain***

13 Let those who set themselves against me

be put to shame and be disgraced;

let those who seek to do me evil

be covered with scorn and reproach.

14 But I shall always wait in patience,

and shall praise you more and more. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor. 1.18–31)*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

### GOSPEL

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John** *(Jn 12.20–36)*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – “Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him,’ We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’ After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

**WEDNESDAY** **OF HOLY WEEK YEARS A B C**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah *(Isa 50. 4-9a)***

The servant of the Lord said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

**Psalm 70**

***REFRAIN* [As for me, I am poor and needy;]**

**Lord, make haste to help me.**

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life

be ashamed and altogether dismayed;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune

draw back and be disgraced. ***Refrain***

3 Let those who say to me ‘Aha!’

and gloat over me turn back,

because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say for ever,

‘Great is the Lord!’ ***Refrain***

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy;

come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer;

O Lord, do not tarry. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 12.1–3)*

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL**

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John** *(Jn 13.21–32)*

Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, ‘Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples – the one whom Jesus loved – was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.’ So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘Do quickly what you are going to do.’ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, ‘Buy what we need for the festival’; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.’

**MAUNDY** **THURSDAY**   **[YEAR A, B and C]**

*White*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: ‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’ ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’ Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love, and ask him to cleanse us.

***or***

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

God our Father,

you have invited us to share in the supper

which your Son gave to his Church

to proclaim his death until he comes:

may he nourish us by his presence,

and unite us in his love;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Maundy* *Thursday*

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex 12. 1-14)*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 116. 1, 10-17**

***REFRAIN* The cup of blessing that we bless,**

# is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

***or***

**I will lift up the cup of salvation.**

1 I love the Lord,

because he has heard the voice of my supplication,

because he has inclined his ear to me

whenever I called upon him. ***Refrain***

10 How shall I repay the Lord

for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call upon the name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all his people. ***Refrain***

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord

is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds. ***Refrain***

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call upon the name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all his people.

17 In the courts of the Lord’s house,

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor 11. 23-26)*

Beloved: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: I give you a new commandment says the Lord:

Love one another as I have loved you.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 13. 1-17, 31b-35)*

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, are you going to wash my feet?’ Jesus answered, ‘You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ Peter said to him, ‘You will never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!’ Jesus said to him, ‘One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.’ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’ After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Priest Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.’ Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; and on the night before he suffered, sitting at table with his disciples, he instituted these holy mysteries, that we, redeemed by his death and restored to life by his resurrection, might be partakers of his divine nature.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; and on the night before he suffered, sitting at table with his disciples, he instituted these holy mysteries, that we, redeemed by his death and restored to life by his resurrection, might be partakers of his divine nature.

***Alternative Short Preface - Blessing of the Oils (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because by your Holy Spirit you anointed your only Son to be servant of all and ordained that he should enter into his kingdom through suffering. In your wisdom and love you call your Church to serve the world, to share in Christ’s suffering and to reveal his glory.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right to give you thanks, Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For on this night he girded himself with a towel and, taking the form of a servant, washed the feet of his disciples. He gave us a new commandment that we should love one another as he has loved us. Knowing that his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples to be a memorial of his passion, that we might proclaim his death until he comes again, and feast with him in his kingdom. Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise; we too join with angels and archangels as they proclaim your glory without end:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right to give you thanks,

Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For on this night he girded himself with a towel

and, taking the form of a servant,

washed the feet of his disciples.

He gave us a new commandment

that we should love one another as he has loved us.

Knowing that his hour had come,

in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples

to be a memorial of his passion,

that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,

and feast with him in his kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven

to sing a new song of praise;

we too join with angels and archangels

as they proclaim your glory without end:

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty and heavenly Father,

we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament

you have given us the memorial

of the passion of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant us so to reverence

the sacred mysteries of his body and blood,

that we may know within ourselves,

and show forth in our lives,

the fruits of his redemption;

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and heavenly Father, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of the passion of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of his body and blood, that we may know within ourselves, and show forth in our lives, the fruits of his redemption; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***There is no blessing at the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy.***

**INTERCESSIONS** **FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Father, on this, the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed the disciples' feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us

All: and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church, both locally and internationally. We pray for our brothers and sisters here in Orford, asking your blessing on us as we try to find new paths that lead to greater unity.

Lord, hear us

All: and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through their message. We pray for the mission of your Church, both locally and internationally. In the world-wide Church, we pray for our partner diocese of Akure, and for all who have links with our Diocese.

Lord, hear us

All: and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded us to love, but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved, for those who are homeless and those who have no contact with their families. We ask you to support those who feel they have no worth, who are lonely or suicidal, showing them that they are precious in your sight.

Lord, hear us

All: and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith and for their persecutors, for the work of Amnesty International and other organisations that campaign for justice and freedom.

Lord, hear us

All: and give us your peace.

On this night, he prayed for all in need. We pray tonight for those who are anxious, lonely, have been bereaved, or are ill: and we think of Joe Savage, Joe Emmerson, Dot Curry, Janice Ince, Nita Wright, Ann Downey, Jane Redfern, Derek Bibby, Dolly Hancock, Austin Thompson and Christopher. We pray for those who already share in your risen and glorious life, both those dear to us and those whom we pray for tonight, including Inez Finch, who died recently and Maurice Cook whose anniversary falls today.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

All: Most merciful Lord,

your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;

we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table.

But you, O Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners.

So cleanse us and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son,

that he may live in us and we in him;

and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

**The Watch according to St Matthew:**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

[While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." ]

Visit we pray Lord, this your family, and guard with your watchful tenderness the hearts which have been hallowed by these sacred mysteries; that as by your mercy we receive the healing grace of salvation, so by your power and protection we may ever retain them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

# Prayers at the Conclusion of the Watch:

Save us O Lord while waking and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray, and in thy great mercy, defend us from all perils of the night; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,

Body of Christ, save me,

Blood of Christ, inebriate me,

Water from the side of Christ, wash me,

Passion of Christ, strengthen me,

O good Jesu, hear me

Within thy wounds hide me

Suffer me not to be separated from thee

From the malignant enemy defend me

In the hour of my death call

and bid me come to thee

That with the saints I may praise thee

for ever and ever. Amen

Almighty and heavenly Father, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of the passion of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of his body and blood, that we may know within ourselves, and show forth in our lives, the fruits of his redemption; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

# GOOD FRIDAY [YEARS A, B, C]

Red vestments; hangings removed

The whole service, taken from Lent, Holy Week, Easter follows. The psalm is included for the sake of completion, but not used at St Andrew’s.

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

The Liturgy of the Word

*The procession enters in* ***silence.*** All kneel for silent prayer.

**The Collect of the Day:**

Almighty Father,

look with mercy on this your family

for which our Lord Jesus Christ

was content to be betrayed

and given up into the hands of sinners

and to suffer death upon the cross;

who is alive and glorified

with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Good* *Friday*

*Sit* for **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa. 52. 13- 53. 12)*

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him – so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals – so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn:** 120 "O sacred head, surrounded" (*remain seated)*

*Sit* for **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.** *(Heb. 4.14-16; 5, 7-9)*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Reader This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Hymn: 116 "O dearest Lord, thy sacred head"

**The reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John:**

*Please remain seated until the pause which follows* "Then he handed him over to be crucified" ***Stand.***

*The reading concludes with a short period of silence.*

**The Sermon** (*please sit)*

The Proclamation of the Cross

*Please kneel. During this hymn, the Cross is brought into church, an placed in front of the altar.*

Hymn: 127 "When I survey the wondrous cross"

Priest: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and praise you for your mighty resurrection;

**All: For by virtue of your cross**

**joy has come into our world.**

Priest: God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face shine upon us.

**All: Let your ways be made known on earth;**

**your liberating power among all nations.**

Priest: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

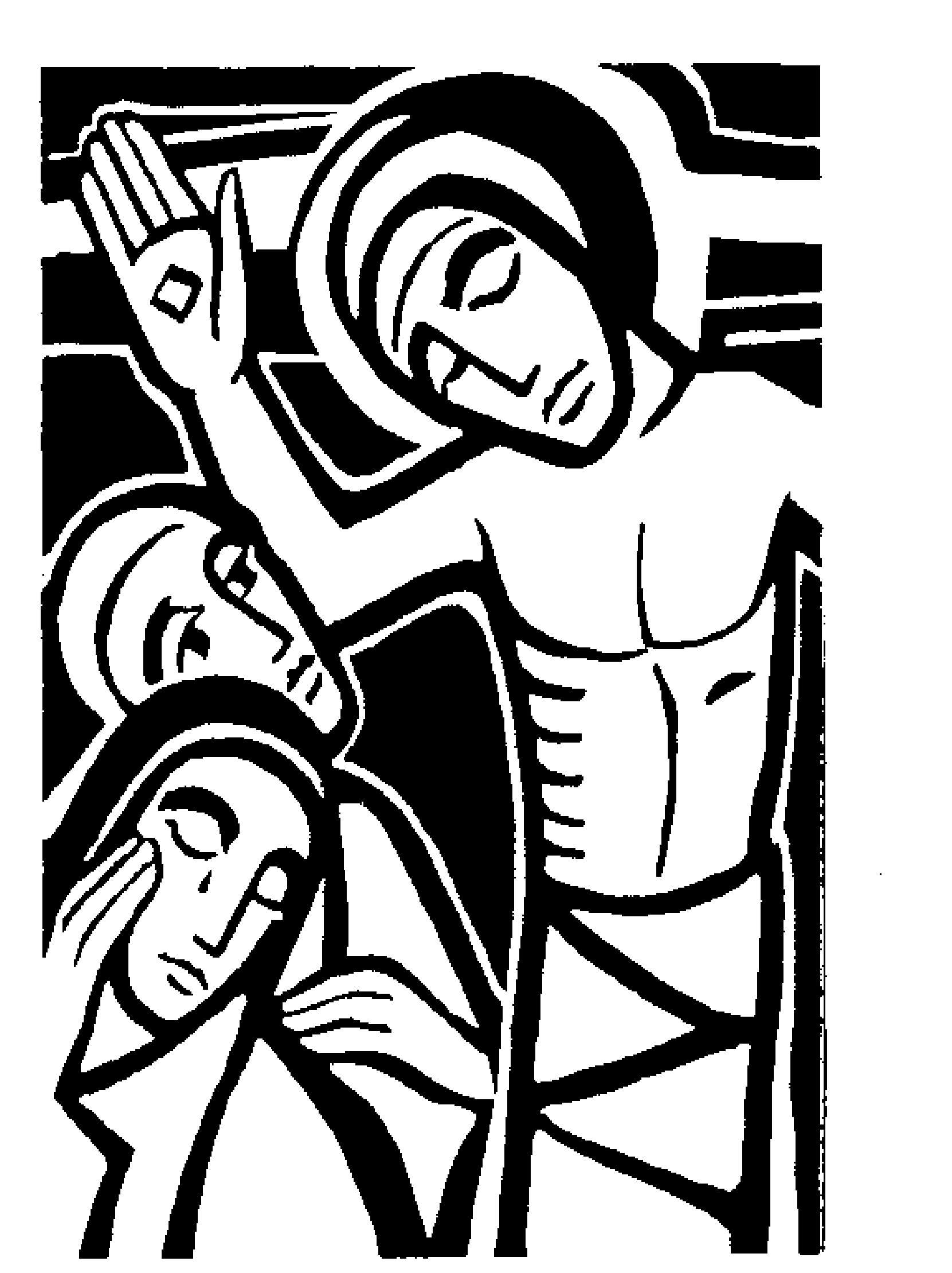
let all the peoples praise you.

**All: We glory in your cross, O Lord,**

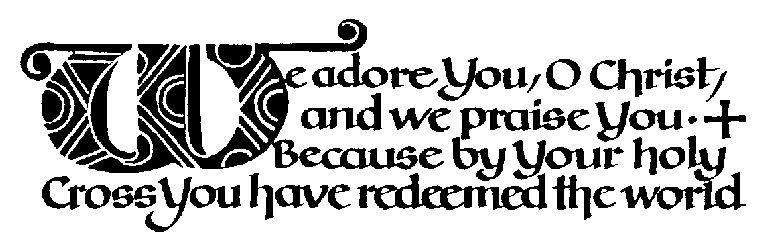
**and praise you for your mighty resurrection;**

**for by virtue of your cross**

**joy has come into the world.**



*You are now invited to come forward and venerate the Cross. Simply come and kneel in front of the Cross, and read the Prayer of Veneration. Then stand, and bow before the Cross before returning to your place.*



*When all have venerated the Cross, we sing:*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Priest: Father, hear our prayer and forgive us.

#### All: Unstop our ears

**that we may receive the gospel of the Cross.**

**Lighten our eyes**

**that we may see your glory**

**in the face of your Son.**

**Penetrate our minds**

**that your truth may make us whole.**

**Irradiate our hearts with your love**

**that we may love one another for Christ's sake.**

**Father, forgive us.**

*Remain kneeling to sing:*

**Hymn:**  "O crucified Redeemer"

O crucified Redeemer,

whose life blood we have spilt,

to thee we raise our guilty hands,

and humbly own our guilt.

Today we see thy Passion

spread open to our gaze;

the crowded street, the country lane,

its Calvary displays.

Wherever love is outraged,

wherever hope is killed,

where man still wrongs his brother man,

thy Passion is fulfilled.

We see thy tortured body,

we see the wounds that bleed,

where brotherhood hangs crucified,

nailed to the cross of greed.

We hear the cry of anguish,

we see thy life outpoured,

where battlefield runs red with blood,

our brother’s blood, O Lord.

And in that bloodless battle,

the fight for daily bread,

where might is right and self is king,

we see thy thorn-crowned head.

The groaning of creation,

wrung out by pain and care,

the anguish of a million hearts

that break in dumb despair;

O crucified Redeemer,

these are thy cries of pain;

O may they break our selfish hearts,

and love come in to reign.

The Intercession

The response to "Lord hear us" is  **"Lord, graciously hear us"**

*At the end of the prayers:*

Reader Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Ministry of the Sacrament

*The altar is prepared in silence*

Priest: Let us pray to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

All (sing): Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

grant us peace.

Priest: This is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All are invited to receive the sacrament if they so wish.*

**Hymn during Communion:**

108 "Glory be to Jesus"

The service concludes with the following collect:

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved mankind:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymn** 499 (omit \* verses) "Lift high the Cross"

**INTERCESSIONS** **FOR GOOD FRIDAY:**

President: God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn it the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world –

for unity in faith, in witness and in service

for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve

for our bishop, James, and the people of this diocese

for all Christians in this place

for those to be baptised

for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith

that God will confirm his Church in faith,

increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Prayer: *Almighty and everlasting God,*

*by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:*

*hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people;*

*that each in their vocation and ministry*

*may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your Name;*

*through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* **Amen**

Intercessor: Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders –

for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliament of this land

for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office

for all who strive for justice and reconciliation

that by God’s help the world may live in peace and freedom.

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Prayer: *Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace:*

*turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,*

*that by the power of your Spirit*

*the peace which is founded on justice*

*may be established throughout the world;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **Amen**

Intercessor: Let us pray for God’s ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word –

for greater understanding between Christian and Jew

for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart

that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Prayer: *Lord God of Abraham*

*bless the children of your covenant, both Jew and Christian;*

*take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart,*

*and hasten the coming of your kingdom,*

*when Israel shall be saved and Gentiles gathered in,*

*and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace*

*under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. **Amen**

Intercessor: Let us pray for those who do not believe the Gospel of Christ –

for those who follow other faiths and creeds

for those who have not heard the message of salvation

for all who have lost faith

for the contemptuous and scornful

for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who

follow him

for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified

that God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Prayer: *Most merciful God, creator of all the people of the earth,*

*have compassion on all who do not know you,*

*and by the preaching of your Gospel with grace and power,*

*gather them into the one fold of the one Shepherd, Christ our Lord.* **Amen**

Intercessor: Let us pray for all those who suffer –

for those who are deprived and oppressed

for those who are sick and handicapped

for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair,

in loneliness and in fear

for prisoners

for the victims of false accusations and violence

for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them

that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his love.

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Prayer: *Almighty and everlasting God*

*the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer;*

*hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble:*

*and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **Amen**

Intercessor: Let us commend ourselves and all God’s children to his unfailing love,

and pray for the grace of a holy life,

that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ,

may come to the fullness of eternal life

and the joy of the resurrection.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**EASTER** **VIGIL**

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HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

**The Choice of Readings**

A wide variety of readings has been provided, from which an appropriate selection may be made according to the length of time available. The selection could follow different routes through the reading, each following a particular theme or motif. Some examples are offered below, though others may be devised. However, a minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. It is desirable that the

reading from Genesis 1 be used. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.

*Common Worship offers 22 OT readings for use at the Vigil from which five ‘themed routes’ through the readings are drawn.*

***At St Andrew’s****, we have used Pattern A (see Times and Seasons page 324 for further explanation* [*http://www.churchofengland.org/media/41157/tseasterlit.pdf*](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/41157/tseasterlit.pdf) *)*

[Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a](#VR1) *The Creation*

[Genesis 3](#VR2) *The Fall*

[Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13](#VR3) *Noah and the flood*

[Genesis 22.1-18](#VR4) *Abraham and Isaac*

[Exodus 3.1-6](#VR5) *Moses and the burning bush*

[Exodus 12.1-24](#VR6) *The Passover*

[**Exodus 14.10-end; 15.1a**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea*

[Ruth 1.15-18; 2.1-13; 4.13-17](#VR8) *The faithfulness of Ruth*

[1 Samuel 1.1-end](#VR9) *Hannah and the birth of Samuel*

[Proverbs 8.1-8,19-21; 9.4b-6](#VR10) *In praise of wisdom*

[Isaiah 54.5-15](#VR11) *I will save you from all your afflictions*

[Isaiah 55.1-11](#VR12) *Let us return to the Lord who saves us*

[Isaiah 66.6-16](#VR13) *The Lord is like a mother*

[Jeremiah 31.31-34](#VR14) *God promises a new heart*

[Ezekiel 36.24-28](#VR15) *Sprinkled with the water of life*

[Ezekiel 37.1-14](#VR16) *The valley of dry bones*

[Ezekiel 47.1-12](#VR17) *The river of life*

[Daniel 3.1-28](#VR18) *The three young men in the furnace*

[Daniel 6.1-24](#VR19) *Daniel in the lions’ den*

[Jonah 1.1 – 2.10](#VR20) *Jonah and the fish*

[Zephaniah 3.14-end](#VR21) *Jerusalem praises God*

[Baruch 3.9-15, 32 – 4.4](#VR22) *The commandments of life*

*For list of* Easter Vigil Readings, Psalms and Prayers*,* [*click here*](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*The following readings and psalms are provided for use at the Easter Vigil. A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen.* ***The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used****.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| READING 1 | [*(Gen. 1.1 – 2.4a)*](#EasterVigReading1) | PSALM (1) | [*Psalm 136. 1–9, 23–26*](#EasterVigPSalm1) |
| READING 2 | [*(Gen. 7.1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13)*](#EasterVigReading2) | PSALM (2) | [*Psalm 46*](#EasterVigPSalm2) |
| READING 3 | [*(Gen. 22.1–18)*](#EasterVigReading3) | PSALM (3) | [*Psalm 16*](#EasterVigPSalm3) |
| READING 4 | [***(Ex. 14.10–31; 15.20–21)***](#EasterVigReading4) | CANTICLE (4) | [*Ex. 15.1b–13, 17–18*](#EasterVigPSalm4) |
| READING 5 | [*(Isa. 55.1–11)*](#EasterVigReading5) | CANTICLE (5) | [*Isa. 12. 2–6*](#EasterVigPSalm5) |
| READING 6  ***either*** | [*(Bar. 3.9–15, 32–36; 4.1–4)*](#EasterVigReading6A) |  |  |
| ***or*** | [*(Prov. 8.1–8, 19–21; 9.4b–6)*](#EasterVigReading6B) | PSALM (6) | [*Psalm 19*](#EasterVigPSalm6) |
| READING 7 | [*(Ezek. 36.24–28)*](#EasterVigReading7) | PSALM (7) | [*Psalms 42 and 43*](#EasterVigPSalm7) |
| READING 8 | [*(Ezek. 37.1–14)*](#EasterVigReading8) | PSALM (8) | [*Psalm 143*](#EasterVigPSalm8) |
| READING 9 | [*(Zeph. 3.14–20)*](#EasterVigReading9) | PSALM (9) | [*Psalm 98*](#EasterVigPSalm9) |
| N. T. READING | [*(Rom. 6. 3–11)*](#EasterVigReadingNT) | PSALM (NT) | [*Psalm 114*](#EasterVigPSalmNT) |
| GOSPEL (A) | [*Matthew*](#EasterVigGosA) |  |  |
| GOSPEL (B) | [*Mark*](#EasterVigGosB) |  |  |
| GOSPEL (C) | [*Luke*](#EasterVigGosC) |  |  |

**To jump to:**

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**Baptismal Theme**

[Genesis 1.1–2.4a](#VR1) *The Creation (*[*Ps 104. 1-7*](#PS104EV)*)*

[Genesis 7 etc](#VR3) *Noah and the flood (*[*Ps 36*](#PS36EV)*)*

Jonah 1.1 – 2.10 *Jonah and the fish (*[*Ps 130*](#PS130EV)*)*

[**Exodus 14 etc**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea (*[*Song of Moses and Miriam*](#SongofMosesandMiriam)*)*

[Ezekiel 36.24-28](#VR15) *Sprinkled with the water of life (*[*Ps 42. 1-7*](#PS42EV)*)*

[Ezekiel 47.1-12](#VR17T) *The river of life (*[*Ps 46. 1-5*](#PS46EV)*)*

**Women in Salvation**

[Genesis 1.1–2.4a](#VR1) *The Creation (*[*Ps 104. 1-7*](#PS104EV)*)*

[Genesis 3](#VR2) *The Fall (*[*Ps 51. 1-7*](#PS51EV)*)*

[Exodus 12.1-24](#VR6) *The Passover (*[*Ps 77.11 – end*](#PS77EV)*)*

[**Exodus 14 etc**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea (*[*Song of Moses and Miriam*](#SongofMosesandMiriam)*)*

[Ruth 1.1etc](#VR8) *The faithfulness of Ruth (*[*Ps 61*](#PS61EV)*)*

[1 Samuel 1.1-end](#VR9) *Hannah and the birth of Samuel (*[*A Song of Hannah*](#SongofHannah)*)*

[Proverbs 8 etc](#VR10) *In praise of wisdom (*[*A Song of Wisdom*](#SongofWisdom)*)*

[Isaiah 66.1 etc](#VR13) *The Lord is like a mother (*[*Ps 113*](#PS113EV)*)*

**Salvation Theme**

[Genesis 1.1–2.4a](#VR1) *The Creation (*[*Ps 104. 1-7*](#PS104EV)*)*

[Genesis 3](#VR2) *The Fall (*[*Ps 51. 1-7*](#PS51EV)*)*

[Genesis 7 etc](#VR3) *Noah and the flood (*[*Ps 36*](#PS36EV)*)*

[Exodus 3.1-6](#VR5) *Moses and the burning bush (*[*Ps 27*](#PS27EV)*)*

[**Exodus 14 etc**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea (*[*Song of Moses and Miriam*](#SongofMosesandMiriam)*)*

[Jonah 1.1 – 2.10](#VR20) *Jonah and the fish (*[*Ps 130*](#PS130EV)*)*

[Daniel 3.1-28](#VR18) *The three young men in the furnace (*[*Bless the Lord*](#BlesstheLord) *and* [*Benedicite*](#Benedicite)*)*

[Daniel 6.1-24](#VR19) *Daniel in the lions’ den (*[*Ps 34*](#PS34EV)*)*

**Renewal Theme**

*See also* Sunday by Sunday***“Renew a right spirit within me”*** *(Issue 59) The readings are:*

[Genesis 1.1–2.4a](#VR1); *The Creation (*[*Ps 104. 1-7*](#PS104EV)*)*

[Genesis 22. 1-18](#VR4); *Abraham and Isaac (*[*Ps 16.6 – end*](#PS16EV)*)*

[Exodus 12.1-24](#VR6) *The Passover (*[*Ps 77.11 – end*](#PS77EV)*)*

[**Exodus 14 etc**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea (*[*Song of Moses and Miriam*](#SongofMosesandMiriam)*)*

[Jeremiah 31. 31-34](#VR14) *God promises a new heart (*[*Ps 51.8-18*](#PS512EV)*)*

[Ezekiel 36.24-28](#VR15) *Sprinkled with the water of life (*[*Ps 42. 1-7*](#PS42EV)*)*

[Ezekiel 37. 1-14](#VR16) *The valley of dry bones (*[*Ps 126*](#PS126EV)*)*

[Ezekiel 47.1-12](#VR17T) *The river of life (*[*Ps 46. 1-5*](#PS46EV)*)*

**Freedom Theme**

[Genesis 1.1–2.4a](#VR1) *The Creation (*[*Ps 104. 1-7*](#PS104EV)*)*

[Genesis 3](#VR2) *The Fall (*[*Ps 51. 1-7*](#PS51EV)*)*

[Exodus 3.1-6](#VR5) *Moses and the burning bush (*[*Ps 27*](#PS27EV)*)*

[Exodus 12.1-24](#VR6) *The Passover (*[*Ps 77.11 – end*](#PS77EV)*)*

[**Exodus 14 etc**](#VR7)*Crossing the Red Sea (*[*Song of Moses and Miriam*](#SongofMosesandMiriam)*)*

[Isaiah 54.5-15](#VR11) *I will save you from all your afflictions (Ps 30)*

[Ezekiel 47.1-12](#VR17T) *The river of life (*[*Ps 46. 1-5*](#PS46EV)*)*

[Zephaniah 3.14-end](#VR21) *Jerusalem praises God (*[*Ps 98*](#PS98EV)*)*

**The Vigil Readings, Psalms and Prayers**

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*Genesis 1–2: The Creation*

[**Genesis 1.1–2.4a**](#EasterVigReading1)

[Psalm 104.1-7](#PS104EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ is the image of the unseen God;

*All* **through him all things were made.]**

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that we may see God’s image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained

and overflows in the wonder of creation.

You formed the universe out of nothing

and moulded us from the clay of the earth.

All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Genesis 3: The Fall*

[**Genesis 3**](#VR2T)

[Psalm 51.1-7](#PS51EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[As in Adam all die,

*All* **so in Christ shall all be made alive.]**

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed

to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion

on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart

and nothing can be concealed from your sight,

yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.

Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin’s lure,

and shatter the power of evil,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Genesis 7, 8, 9: Noah and the flood*

[**Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13**](#EasterVigReading2)

[Psalm 36](#PS36EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **The Lord makes my darkness to be bright.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[In baptism we died to sin.

*All* **In Christ we are raised to life.]**

Grant, Lord,

that we who are baptized into the death

of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

may continually put to death our evil desires

and be buried with him;

and that through the grave and gate of death

we may pass to our joyful resurrection;

through his merits,

who died and was buried and rose again for us,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will wash away all that corrupts his work

and restore in us the beauty for which we were made.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your perfect justice you hate the world’s sin.

Noah and his family risked ridicule for your sake

yet their obedience brought them blessing.

Flood our world with the tide of your love

and rid us of all that disfigures your glorious creation,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Genesis 22: Abraham and Isaac*

[**Genesis 22.1-18**](#EasterVigReading3)

[Psalm 16.6-end](#PS16EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **In your presence is the fullness of joy.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[God so loved the world

*All* **that he gave his only Son.]**

Almighty God,

whose chosen servant Abraham

faithfully obeyed your call

and rejoiced in your promise

that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed:

give us a faith like his,

that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that we may have the courage and strength

to make the sacrifices our faith demands.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Through the faithfulness of Abraham

all the children of earth are blessed.

Give us the courage to give up to you

those things that are most precious to us,

that in turn we may receive

the honour and the joy of your blessing,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

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*Exodus 3: Moses and the burning bush*

[**Exodus 3.1-6**](#VR5T)

[Psalm 27](#PS27EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **Wait patiently for the Lord.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Your faith is tested by fire

*All* **to the praise and glory of Christ.]**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit

upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent

in the fellowship of the gospel

that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray for a renewed vision for the people of God

and a new commitment to break the chains of oppression.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You revealed yourself to your servant Moses

in the awesome wonder of the burning bush

and appointed him to lead your people

to freedom in the promised land.

By the fire of your Spirit today reveal yourself afresh

and strengthen us to free the enslaved

and break the bonds of the captive,

that they may openly sing your praise,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Exodus 12: The Passover*

[**Exodus 12.1-24**](#VR6T)

[Psalm 77.11-end](#PS77EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **With a mighty arm you redeem your people.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast.]**

God our Father,

you have invited us to share in the supper

which your Son gave to his Church

to proclaim his death until he comes:

may he nourish us by his presence,

and unite us in his love;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people

through the hard journeys of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

With the dawning of their deliverance

your people ate the feast of freedom.

As Christ our Passover Lamb

gives hope to the hopeless and frees the ensnared,

establish the justice for which your heart yearns,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

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*Exodus 14: Crossing the Red Sea*

*(This reading must be used.)*

[**Exodus 14.10-end; 15.1a**](#EasterVigReading4)

*Canticle:* [The Song of Moses and Miriam](#SongofMosesandMiriam) (*Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, page 569)

*Canticle response:*

*All* **I will sing to the Lord,**

**who has triumphed gloriously.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*(or)*

The Lord is my strength and my might.

*All* **He has become my salvation.]**

Lord God our redeemer,

who heard the cry of your people

and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:

free us from the tyranny of sin and death

and, by the leading of your Spirit,

bring us to our promised land;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You heard the agony of your people

as they cried out from their slavery,

and you gave them Moses

to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today

and lead us through the turbulent sea of life

to our true home with you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Ruth 1, 2, 4: The faithfulness of Ruth*

[**Ruth 1.15-18; 2.1-13; 4.13-17**](#VR8T)

[Psalm 61](#PS61EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **O God, listen to my prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ remained faithful to death,

*All* **even death on a cross.]**

Almighty God,

by whose grace alone we are accepted

and called to your service:

strengthen us by your Holy Spirit

and make us worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray for perseverance and constancy in our walk of faith.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In leaving mother, father and her native land

to follow her mother-in-law,

Ruth foreshadows the faithfulness of Jesus.

As she worked tirelessly to sustain an earthly life,

give us perseverance as we walk with Jesus

on the way that leads to eternal life with you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*1 Samuel 1: Hannah and the birth of Samuel*

[**1 Samuel 1.1-end**](#VR9T)

*Canticle:* [A Song of Hannah](#SongofHannah) (*Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, page 572)

*Canticle response:*

*All* **My heart exults in the Lord.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ has come that we might have life,

*All* **life in all its fullness.]**

Lord God of salvation,

you brought joy to Hannah through the gift of a child;

fulfil in us the promise of your creation,

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love and joy and peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that we may see the fulfilment of our heart’s desire

in this world and the next.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

After torment and tears

you brought life from the womb of Hannah.

Look upon your suffering people with the same compassion

and do not forget us,

that through the fulfilment of your promise

the barren may burst into life,

the mournful may be overwhelmed with joy,

and the mocked may find a voice to praise you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Proverbs 8, 9: In praise of wisdom*

[**Proverbs 8.1-8,19-21; 9.4b-6**](#EasterVigReading6B)

*Canticle:* [A Song of Wisdom](#SongofWisdom) (*Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, page 599)

*Canticle response:*

*All* **Let us drink of the water of wisdom.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ is the bread of life.

*All* **Whoever comes to him will never hunger.]**

O God, forasmuch as without you

we are not able to please you;

mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit

may in all things direct and rule our hearts;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray for the gift of wisdom for the leaders of our world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You call us to live by your wisdom,

which is more precious even than gold or silver.

As you beckon us to eat the bread of life

and drink the cup of suffering,

may we gather for ever at your table

and walk always in your way of love,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Isaiah 54: I will save you from all your afflictions*

[**Isaiah 54.5-15**](#VR11T)

[Psalm 30](#PS30EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **I will exalt you, O Lord.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ is the bridegroom.

*All* **The Church is his bride.]**

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh

and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will give hope to the grieving, the agonized and the dying.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your overwhelming compassion

you gather the poor and brokenhearted.

As we journey through this storm-tossed life,

comfort your people, wipe away our tears

and establish us in the security of your love,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Isaiah 55: Let us return to the Lord who saves us*

[**Isaiah 55.1-11**](#EasterVigReading5)

*Canticle:* [A Song of Deliverance](#SongofDeliverance) (*Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, page 578)

*Canticle response:*

*All* **With joy you will draw water**

**from the wells of salvation.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Whoever comes to Christ will never be hungry.

*All* **All who believe in Christ will never thirst.]**

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout our world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You quench the thirst of those who yearn for righteousness

and satisfy the hunger of those who crave for justice.

Lead your longing people back to peace,

that with the mountains and hills

we may burst into songs of joy,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Isaiah 66: The Lord is like a mother*

[**Isaiah 66.6-16**](#VR13T)

[Psalm 113](#PS113EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **O praise the name of the Lord.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[We share Christ’s sufferings

*All* **that we might know the power of his resurrection.]**

Almighty God,

you have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:

pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,

and so bring us at last to your heavenly city

where we shall see you face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will hold and protect all who face abuse and rejection.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us.

When we face the dank darkness of death,

nurse us at your bosom

and enfold us in your arms of love

until we can sing the songs of justice and peace,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Jeremiah 31: God promises a new heart*

**Jeremiah 31.31-34**

[Psalm 51.8-18](#PS512EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **Make me a clean heart, O God.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[God will write his law on our hearts.

*All* **He will be our God and we will be his people.]**

Almighty God,

in Christ you make all things new:

transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will rekindle in us a renewed love for him.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Even when your people broke your covenant,

your heart cried out for them

and you remained steadfast as a faithful husband.

Renew in us our love for you

and write your law on our hearts,

that we may truly be your people, and you our God,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Ezekiel 36: Sprinkled with the water of life*

[**Ezekiel 36.24-28**](#EasterVigReading7)

[Psalm 42.1-7](#PS42EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **My soul longs for you, O God.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ gives the living water.

*All* **Christ is the fountain of eternal life.]**

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give to your faithful people new life

in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,

that we who are born again

may serve you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your Son,

Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting

a new outpouring of his refreshing spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,

gather us again and renew us.

Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,

that we may be a people prepared

to live in your land and walk in your ways,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Ezekiel 37: The valley of dry bones*

[**Ezekiel 37.1-14**](#EasterVigReading8)

[Psalm 126](#PS126EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **The Lord has done great things for us.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ is the resurrection and the life.

*All* **Those who believe in Christ will never die.]**

Lord God of our salvation,

you speak the word to your scattered people,

and bring up our life from the valley of death:

breathe your Spirit upon your Church,

that we may live and stand before you

confident in your risen Son,

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will breathe new life into his weary creation.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You bring life from the darkest valley of death.

When hope is lost

and our dry bones are scattered in shame,

speak your word to your broken people,

that we may stand confidently before you,

and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Ezekiel 47: The river of life*

[**Ezekiel 47.1-12**](#VR17T)

[Psalm 46.1-5](#PS46EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **God is our refuge and strength.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[If we drink of the water that Christ gives

*All* **we will never thirst again.]**

God, the giver of life,

whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:

by the Spirit’s gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager

to do your will,

that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

[who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever].

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God’s justice will flow like rivers in the deserts of this world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

The river of life flows from your heart

and where that stream goes everything bursts into flower.

May your refreshing water

be a torrent of life in the deserts of this world,

bringing food to eat and healing to the nations,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Daniel 3: The three young men in the furnace*

[**Daniel 3.1-28**](#VR18T)

*Canticle:* [Bless the Lord](#BlesstheLord) *and* [Benedicite](#Benedicite) (A Song of Creation)

(*Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, pages 602–603)

*Canticle response:*

*All* **Blessed is the Lord who does mighty wonders.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[When you walk through the waters Christ is with you.

*All* **We will never be consumed by the flames.]**

O God,

you know us to be set

in the midst of so many and great dangers,

that by reason of the frailty of our nature

we cannot always stand upright:

grant to us such strength and protection

as may support us in all dangers

and carry us through all temptations;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray for courage to remain faithful to Christ even through the fires of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You rewarded the faithfulness of the three young men

with your protection against the blazing fire.

When the burning flames of life threaten to consume us,

be faithful to us and transform our fear into your praise,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Daniel 6: Daniel in the lions’ den*

[**Daniel 6.1-24**](#VR19T)

[Psalm 34.1-end](#PS34EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **I will bless the Lord at all times.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[The angels closed the lions’ mouths.

*All* **Christ has saved us from the jaws of death.]**

Almighty Father,

whose Son was revealed in majesty

before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory,

that we may be strengthened to suffer with him

and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will sustain us when evil threatens to overcome us.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your servant Daniel was devoted to you,

even in the face of the death threats of his enemies.

As your angels kept shut the jaws of death,

protect your people as they try to be faithful today

and stir in us a trust in your unfailing love,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Jonah 1: Jonah and the fish*

[**Jonah 1.1– 2.10**](#VR20T)

[Psalm 130](#PS130EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **With the Lord there is mercy.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ has saved us from the pit of death.

*All* **He brought new life to the world.]**

Lord of all time and eternity,

you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father

in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:

by the power of your Spirit

complete the heavenly work of our rebirth

through the waters of the new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that we may share God’s heart of compassion for the lost.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In the face of wickedness and disobedience

you still looked lovingly

on the people of Nineveh and your prophet Jonah.

As we see your mighty salvation,

turn the hearts of the wicked to the ways of your love,

that the whole world might return to you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Zephaniah 3: Jerusalem praises God*

[**Zephaniah 3.14-end**](#EasterVigReading9)

[Psalm 98](#PS98EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **Sing to the Lord a new song.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Where, O death, is your victory?

*All* **Where, O death, is your sting?]**

Almighty God,

who called your Church to bear witness

that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will fill sad hearts with songs of joy.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You are the King who dwells in the midst of the people

as one who brings victory from the jaws of defeat.

Heal the sick and gather the outcast

and turn our shame into praise,

that we may sing aloud and exalt your name,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

*Baruch 3, 4: The commandments of life*

[**Baruch 3.9-15,32– 4.4**](#EasterVigReading6A)

[Psalm 19.7-end](#PS19EV)

*Psalm response:*

*All* **You are my strength and my redeemer.**

*Silence is kept.*

***With Pattern A***

[Christ is the wisdom of God.

*All* **Christ has the words of eternal life.]**

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

***With Pattern B***

Let us pray that God will reveal his ways of wisdom to the proud and powerful.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You share your wisdom with the forsaken

and open to us the way of life.

Give us wisdom, strength and understanding,

that we may shine with the light of your glory

and glow with gladness for you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hymns** | **Reading** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| Give to our God immortal praise\* | *Gen 1,2* | 434 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The works of the Lord\* | *Gen 1,2* | 266 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Thou whose almighty word | *Gen 1,2* | 267 |  |  |  |  |  |
| God is our strength and refuge\* | *Gen 7,8,9* | 443 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great is thy faithfulness | *Gen 7,8,9* | 453 | 276 |  |  |  |  |
| I will sing the Lord’s high triumph\* | *Ex 14,15* |  | 72 |  |  |  |  |
| Come ye faithful, raise the strain | *Ex 14,15* | 143 |  |  |  |  |  |
| We shall draw water joyfully\* | *Is 55* |  | 74 |  |  |  |  |
| Rock of ages, cleft for me | *Is 55* | 565 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water of life | *Is 55* |  | 124 |  |  |  |  |
| The spacious firmament on high\* | *Prov 8,9* | 265 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who can measure heaven and earth? | *Bar 3,4 /*  *Prov 8,9* |  | 318 |  |  |  |  |
| As pants the hart for cooling streams\* | *Ezek 36* | 379 |  |  |  |  |  |
| As the deer longs for running streams\* | *Ezek 36* |  | 127 |  |  |  |  |
| As the deer longs for the water\* | *Ezek 36* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| O for a heart to praise my God | *Ezek 36* | 533 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Breath on me breath of God | *Ezek 37* | 174 |  |  |  |  |  |
| New songs of celebration render\* | *Zeph 3* |  | 527 |  |  |  |  |
| Christ is the king! O friends rejoice | *Zeph 3* | 165 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rejoice the Lord is King | *Zeph 3* | 563 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Awake, awake, fling off the night | *Rom 6* | 334 | 119 |  |  |  |  |
| Now is eternal life | *Rom 6* | 152 |  |  |  |  |  |
| This is the night of new beginnings | *Rom 6* |  | 73 |  |  |  |  |
| A brighter dawn is breaking | *Mk 16* | 135 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alleluia, (Now he is living, the Xt) | *Mk 16* |  | 83 |  |  |  |  |
| Earth, earth awake; your praises sing | *Mk 16* |  | 77 |  |  |  |  |
| Finished the strife of battle now | *Mk 16* | 144 |  |  |  |  |  |
| In Christ alone, my hope is found | *Mk 16* |  | 286 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus is risen, alleluia! | *Mk 16* |  | 79 |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus lives! Thy terrors now | *Mk 16* | 148 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Love’s redeeming work is done | *Mk 16* | 150 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The strife is o’er | *Mk 16* | 159 |  |  |  |  |  |
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*\* psalm paraphrase*

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS AND PSALMS**

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis**  *(Gen. 1.1 – 2.4a)*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(1)**

## Psalm 136. 1–9, 23–26

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

2 Give thanks to the God of gods,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

4 Who only does great wonders,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

5 Who by his wisdom made the heavens,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

7 Who created great lights,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

8 The sun to rule the day,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

9 The moon and the stars to govern the night,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

24 And delivered us from our enemies,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

25 Who gives food to all creatures,

**for his mercy endures for ever;**

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

**PSALM**  *( to go with Genesis 1 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 104. 1-7

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. •

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

2 You are clothed with majesty and honour, •

wrapped in light as in a garment.

3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain •

and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.

4 You make the clouds your chariot •

and ride on the wings of the wind.

5 You make the winds your messengers •

and flames of fire your servants.

6 You laid the foundations of the earth, •

that it never should move at any time.

7 You covered it with the deep like a garment; •

the waters stood high above the hills.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

**To jump to:**

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**SECOND** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen. 7.1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13)*

1 The Lord said to Noah,

‘Go into the ark, you and all your household,

for I have seen that you alone

are righteous before me in this generation.

2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals,

the male and its mate;

and a pair of the animals that are not clean,

the male and its mate;

3 and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female,

to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth.

4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights;

and every living thing that I have made

I will blot out from the face of the ground.’

5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

11 In the six-hundredth year of Noah’s life,

in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month,

on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth,

and the windows of the heavens were opened.

12 The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 On the very same day Noah with his sons,

Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife

and the three wives of his sons entered the ark,

14 they and every wild animal of every kind,

and all domestic animals of every kind,

and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth,

and every bird of every kind –

every bird, every winged creature.

15 They went into the ark with Noah,

two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.

16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh,

went in as God had commanded him;

and the Lord shut him in.

17 The flood continued for forty days on the earth;

and the waters increased, and bore up the ark,

and it rose high above the earth.

18 The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth;

and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

6 At the end of forty days

Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made

7 and sent out the raven;

and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

8 Then he sent out the dove from him,

to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground;

9 but the dove found no place to set its foot,

and it returned to him to the ark,

for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth.

So he put out his hand and took it

and brought it into the ark with him.

10 He waited another seven days,

and again he sent out the dove from the ark;

11 and the dove came back to him in the evening,

and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf;

so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

12 Then he waited another seven days,

and sent out the dove;

and it did not return to him any more.

13 In the six hundred and first year,

in the first month, the first day of the month,

the waters were dried up from the earth;

and Noah removed the covering of the ark,

and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month,

the earth was dry.

15 Then God said to Noah,

16 ‘Go out of the ark, you and your wife,

and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.

17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh –

birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth –

so that they may abound on the earth,

and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.’

18 So Noah went out with his sons

and his wife and his sons’ wives.

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

9 ‘As for me,

I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,

10 and with every living creature that is with you,

the birds, the domestic animals,

and every animal of the earth with you,

as many as came out of the ark.

11 I establish my covenant with you,

that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood,

and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’

12 God said,

‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you

and every living creature that is with you,

for all future generations:

13 I have set my bow in the clouds,

and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

## PSALM (2)

**Psalm 46**

***REFRAIN* The Lord of hosts is with us;**

**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

1 God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble;

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains be toppled

into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. ***Refrain***

[ 4 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. ]

5 There is a river whose streams

make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown;

God shall help her at the break of day.

7 The nations make much ado

and the kingdoms are shaken;

God has spoken and the earth shall melt away. ***Refrain***

[ 8 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. ]

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,

what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear

and burns the shields with fire.

11 ‘Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.’ ***Refrain***

[12 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. ]

**PSALM**  *( to go with Genesis 7 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 36

1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart; •  
there is no fear of God before their eyes.

2 They flatter themselves in their own eyes •  
that their abominable sin will not be found out.

3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of deceit; •  
they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.

4 They think out mischief upon their beds

and have set themselves in no good way; •  
nor do they abhor that which is evil.

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens •  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,

your justice like the great deep; •  
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! •  
All mortal flesh shall take refuge

   under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; •  
they shall drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life •  
and in your light shall we see light.

10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you •  
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

11 not the foot of pride come against me, •  
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

12 There are they fallen, all who work wickedness. •  
They are cast down and shall not be able to stand.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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**THIRD** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen. 22.1–18)*

1 God tested Abraham.

He said to him, ‘Abraham!’

And Abraham said, ‘Here I am.’

2 God said,

‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love,

and go to the land of Moriah,

and offer him there as a burnt-offering

on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey,

and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac;

he cut the wood for the burnt-offering,

and set out and went to the place in the distance

that God had shown him.

4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.

5 Then Abraham said to his young men,

‘Stay here with the donkey;

the boy and I will go over there;

we will worship, and then we will come back to you.’

6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering

and laid it on his son Isaac,

and he himself carried the fire and the knife.

So the two of them walked on together.

7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’

And Abraham said,

‘Here I am, my son.’

Isaac said, ‘The fire and the wood are here,

but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’

8 Abraham said,

‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’

So the two of them walked on together.

9 When they came to the place that God had shown him,

Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order.

He bound his son Isaac,

and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Then Abraham reached out his hand

and took the knife to kill his son.

11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said,

‘Abraham, Abraham!’

And he said, ‘Here I am.’

12 The angel said,

‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him;

for now I know that you fear God,

since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’

13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram,

caught in a thicket by its horns.

Abraham went and took the ram

and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son.

14 So Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’;

as it is said to this day,

‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’

15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham

a second time from heaven,

16 and said,

‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord:

Because you have done this,

and have not withheld your son, your only son,

17 I will indeed bless you,

and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven

and as the sand that is on the seashore.

And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

18 and by your offspring

shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves,

because you have obeyed my voice.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(3)**

**Psalm 16**

***REFRAIN*  O Lord, you are my portion and my cup.**

1  Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; •

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
 all my good depends on you.'

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, •

upon those who are noble in heart.

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ¨  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
      neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; •

  in your hands alone is my fortune.

5 My share has fallen in a fair land; •

  indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

***Times and Seasons offers*** ***Psalm 16. verse 6 to end***

6 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

my heart teaches me, night after night.

7 I have set the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

8 My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices;

my body also shall rest in hope.

9 For you will not abandon me to the grave,

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

10 You will show me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy,

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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**FOURTH** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex. 14.10–31; 15.20–21)*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE** **(4)**

## Exodus 15.1b–13, 17–18

***REFRAIN*  Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.**

1 ‘I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my might,

and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him,

my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The Lord is a warrior;

the Lord is his name. ***Refrain***

4 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea;

his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

5 The floods covered them;

they went down into the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power –

your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. ***Refrain***

7 In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;

you sent out your fury,

it consumed them like stubble.

8 At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,

the floods stood up in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ***Refrain***

9 The enemy said,

“I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil,

my desire shall have its fill of them.

I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.”

10 You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;

they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ***Refrain***

11 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness,

awesome in splendour, doing wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand,

the earth swallowed them. ***Refrain***

13 In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;

you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

17 You brought them in

and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,

the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,

the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

18 The Lord will reign for ever and ever.’ ***Refrain***

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**FIFTH** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa. 55.1–11)*

The Lord says this:

1 Everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE** **(5)**

## Isaiah 12. 2–6 *Not in form of Common Worship but earlier version*

***REFRAIN*  Shout aloud and sing for joy,**

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

2 Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

3 With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation. ***Refrain***

4 And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,

call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted. ***Refrain***

5 Sing praises to the Lord,

for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst

is the Holy One of Israel. ***Refrain***

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**SIXTH READING**

***Either***

**A** **reading from the book of the prophet Baruch** *(Bar. 3.9–15, 32–36; 4.1–4)*

9 Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;

give ear, and learn wisdom!

10 Why is it, O Israel,

why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,

that you are growing old in a foreign country,

that you are defiled with the dead,

11 that you are counted among those in Hades?

12 You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

13 If you had walked in the way of God,

you would be living in peace for ever.

14 Learn where there is wisdom,

where there is strength,

where there is understanding,

so that you may at the same time discern

where there is length of days, and life,

where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

15 Who has found her place?

And who has entered her storehouses?

32 But the one who knows all things knows her,

he found her by his understanding.

The one who prepared the earth for all time

filled it with four-footed creatures;

33 the one who sends forth the light, and it goes;

he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling;

34 the stars shone in their watches, and were glad;

he called them, and they said, ‘Here we are!’

They shone with gladness for him who made them.

35 This is our God;

no other can be compared to him.

36 He found the whole way to knowledge,

and gave her to his servant Jacob

and to Israel, whom he loved.

1 She is the book of the commandments of God,

the law that endures for ever.

All who hold her fast will live,

and those who forsake her will die.

2 Turn, O Jacob, and take her;

walk towards the shining of her light.

3 Do not give your glory to another,

or your advantages to an alien people.

4 Happy are we, O Israel,

for we know what is pleasing to God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**  *( to go with Baruch 3 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 19. 7 - end

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; •

the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; •

the commandment of the Lord is pure  
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; •

the judgements of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, •

sweeter also than honey,  
dripping from the honeycomb.

11 By them also is your servant taught •

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often they offend? •

O cleanse me from my secret faults!

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins  
lest they get dominion over me; •

so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, •

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

**or**

**A** **reading from the book of Proverbs** *(Prov. 8.1–8, 19–21; 9.4b–6)*

1 Does not wisdom call,

and does not understanding raise her voice?

2 On the heights, beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

4 ‘To you, O people, I call,

and my cry is to all that live.

5 O simple ones, learn prudence;

acquire intelligence, you who lack it.

6 Hear, for I will speak noble things,

and from my lips will come what is right;

7 for my mouth will utter truth;

wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;

there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,

and my yield than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness,

along the paths of justice,

21 endowing with wealth those who love me,

and filling their treasuries.’

4 To those without sense she says,

5 ‘Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.

6 Lay aside immaturity, and live,

and walk in the way of insight.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE**

## Canticle: A Song of Wisdom

***Refrain:***

**All Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;  
from the throne of your glory  
send what is pleasing to you.**

1 O God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy, •  
you have made all things by your word.

2 By your wisdom you have formed us •  
to have dominion over the creatures you have made;

3 To rule the world in holiness and righteousness •  
and to pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul.

4 Give us the Wisdom that sits by your throne; •  
do not reject us from among your servants,

5 For we are your servants, •  
with little understanding of judgement and laws.

6 Even one who is perfect among us •  
will be regarded as nothing  
without the wisdom that comes from you.

7 With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works, •  
and was present when you made the world.

8 She understands what is pleasing in your sight •  
and what is right according to your commandments.

9 Send her forth from the holy heavens, •  
from the throne of your glory send her.

10 That she may labour at our side •  
and that we may learn what is pleasing to you.

11 For she knows and understands all things, •  
she will guide us wisely in our actions  
and guard us with her glory.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;  
from the throne of your glory  
send what is pleasing to you.**

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**SEVENTH** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ezek. 36. 24–28)*

The word of the Lord came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(7)**

## Psalms 42 and 43

***REFRAIN*  Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?**

**and why are you so disquieted within me?**

1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks,

so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;

when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night,

while all day long they say to me,

‘Where now is your God?’ ***Refrain***

4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things:

how I went with the multitude

and led them into the house of God,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,

among those who keep holy-day. ***Refrain***

[ 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

and why are you so disquieted within me? ]

7 Put your trust in God;

for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

8 My soul is heavy within me;

therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,

and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts;

all your rapids and floods have gone over me. ***Refrain***

10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime;

in the night season his song is with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

11 I will say to the God of my strength,

‘Why have you forgotten me?

and why do I go so heavily

while the enemy oppresses me?’ ***Refrain***

12 While my bones are being broken,

my enemies mock me to my face;

13 All day long they mock me,

say to me, ‘Where now is your God?’ ***Refrain***

[14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

and why are you so disquieted within me? ]

15 Put your trust in God;

for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God. ***Refrain***

1 Give judgement for me, O God,

and defend my cause against an ungodly people;

deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2 For you are the God of my strength;

why have you put me from you?

and why do I go so heavily

while the enemy oppresses me? ***Refrain***

3 Send out your light and your truth,

that they may lead me,

and bring me to your holy hill

and to your dwelling;

4 That I may go to the altar of God,

to the God of my joy and gladness;

and on the harp I will give thanks to you,

O God my God. ***Refrain***

[ 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

and why are you so disquieted within me? ]

6 Put your trust in God;

for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God. ***Refrain***

**PSALM**  *( to go with Ezekiel 36 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 42. 1-7

1  As the deer longs for the water brooks, •  
so longs my soul for you, O God.

2  My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; •  
when shall I come before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my bread day and night, •  
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

4 Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: •  
how I went with the multitude

and led the procession to the house of God,

5  With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, •  
among those who kept holy day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, •  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 O put your trust in God; •  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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**EIGHTH** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ezek. 37.1–14)*

1 The hand of the Lord came upon me,

and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord

and set me down in the middle of a valley;

it was full of bones.

2 He led me all around them;

there were very many lying in the valley,

and they were very dry.

3 He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’

I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’

4 Then he said to me,

‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them:

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:

I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

6 I will lay sinews on you,

and will cause flesh to come upon you,

and cover you with skin,

and put breath in you, and you shall live;

and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded;

and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling,

and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

8 I looked, and there were sinews on them,

and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them;

but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me,

‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal,

and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD:

Come from the four winds,

O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’

10 I prophesied as he commanded me,

and the breath came into them,

and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me,

‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost;

we are cut off completely.”

12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them,

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I am going to open your graves,

and bring you up from your graves, O my people;

and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

13 And you shall know that I am the Lord,

when I open your graves,

and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,

and I will place you on your own soil;

then you shall know that I, the Lord,

have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(8)**

## Psalm 143

***REFRAIN*  Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning.**

1 Lord, hear my prayer,

and in your faithfulness heed my supplications;

answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgement with your servant,

for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For my enemy has sought my life

and has crushed me to the ground;

making me live in dark places

like those who are long dead. ***Refrain***

4 My spirit faints within me;

my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past;

I muse upon all your deeds;

I consider the works of your hands.

6 I spread out my hands to you;

my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land. ***Refrain***

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me;

do not hide your face from me

or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,

for I put my trust in you;

show me the road that I must walk,

for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,

for I flee to you for refuge. ***Refrain***

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;

let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name’s sake;

for your righteousness’ sake, bring me out of trouble.

12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies

and bring all my foes to naught,

for truly I am your servant. ***Refrain***

**PSALM**  *( to go with Ezekiel 37 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, •

then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter •

and our tongue with songs of joy.

3 Then said they among the nations, •

'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, •

and therefore we rejoiced.

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, •

as the river beds of the desert.

6 Those who sow in tears •

shall reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, •

will come back with shouts of joy,

bearing their sheaves with them.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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**NINTH** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah** *(Zeph. 3.14–20)*

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

18 as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned

and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(9)**

## Psalm 98

***REFRAIN*  The Lord has made known his victory**

**in the sight of the nations.**

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvellous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm

has he won for himself the victory. ***Refrain***

3 The Lord has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown

in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness

to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen

the victory of our God. ***Refrain***

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the Lord. ***Refrain***

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,

the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,

when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world,

and the peoples with equity. ***Refrain***

**PSALM**  *( to go with Zephaniah 3 acc. to* Times and Seasons*)*

## Psalm 98

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, •

for he has done marvellous things.

2 His own right hand and his holy arm •

  have won for him the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his salvation; •

his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness

  towards the house of Israel, •

and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; •

break into singing and make music.

6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, •

with the lyre and the voice of melody.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn •

sound praises before the Lord, the King.

8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, •

the world and all that dwell upon it.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands •

and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,

   for he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world •

and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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**NEW** **TESTAMENT READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom. 6. 3–11)*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** **(NT)**

## Psalm 114

***REFRAIN*  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

1 Alleluia!

When Israel came out of Egypt,

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God’s sanctuary

and Israel his dominion. ***Refrain***

3 The sea beheld it and fled;

Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams,

and the little hills like young sheep. ***Refrain***

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?

O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams?

you little hills like young sheep? ***Refrain***

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water

and flint-stone into a flowing spring. ***Refrain***

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**GOSPEL** **YEAR A**

*Years B and C have their own Gospels: for Year B* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosB)*; for Year C* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosC)

Priest: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew*(Matt. 28:1–10)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**GOSPEL** **YEAR B**

*Years B and C have their own Gospels: for Year A* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosA)*; for Year C* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosC)

Priest: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark*(Mk. 16.1–8)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**GOSPEL** **YEAR C**

*Years B and C have their own Gospels: for Year C* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosA)*; for Year B* [*click here*](#EasterVigGosB)

Priest: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke*(Lk 24. 1–12)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

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**ADDITIONAL READINGS**

All taken from New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

#### Genesis 3

**A reading from the book Genesis** *(Genesis 3)*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'? The woman said to the serpent, We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' You will not surely die, the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, Where are you? He answered, I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat? The man said, The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. Then the LORD God said to the woman, What is this you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate. So the LORD God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. To the woman he said, I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.  Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. To Adam he said, Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow  you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return. Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever. So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Genesis 3)

## Psalm 51. 1-7

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •

  according to the abundance of your compassion

  blot out my offences.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness •

  and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my faults •

  and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned •

  and done what is evil in your sight,

5 So that you are justified in your sentence •

  and righteous in your judgement.

6 I have been wicked even from my birth, •

  a sinner when my mother conceived me.

7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me •

  and shall make me understand wisdom

  in the depths of my heart.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Exodus 3:1-6

**A reading from the book of the Exodus** *(Exodus 3. 1-6)*

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, I will go over and see this strange sight— why the bush does not burn up. When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, Moses! Moses! And Moses said, Here I am. Do not come any closer, God said. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. Then he said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Exodus 3)

## Psalm 27

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? •  
The Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh, •  
they stumbled and fell.

3 Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid, •  
and though there rise up war against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord  
and that alone I seek: •  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,

5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord •  
and to seek his will in his temple.

6 For in the day of trouble  
he shall hide me in his shelter; •  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock.

7 And now shall he lift up my head •  
above my enemies round about me;

8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with great gladness; •  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; •  
have mercy upon me and answer me.

10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' •  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

11 Hide not your face from me, •  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

12 You have been my helper; •  
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, •  
the Lord will take me up.

14 Teach me your way, O Lord; •  
lead me on a level path,  
because of those who lie in wait for me.

15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, •  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and those who breathe out violence.

16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord •  
in the land of the living.

17 Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart; •  
wait patiently for the Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Exodus 12:1-24

**A reading from the book of the Exodus** *(Exodus 12. 1-24)*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire— head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn— both men and animals— and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD— a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day until the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat— that is all you may do. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread. Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the door-frame. Not one of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the door-frame and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Exodus 12)

## Psalm 77. 11-end

11   I will remember the works of the Lord •

    and call to mind your wonders of old time.

12   I will meditate on all your works •

    and ponder your mighty deeds.

13   Your way, O God, is holy; •

    who is so great a god as our God?

14   You are the God who worked wonders •

    and declared your power among the peoples.

15   With a mighty arm you redeemed your people, •

    the children of Jacob and Joseph.

16   The waters saw you, O God;

    the waters saw you and were afraid; •

    the depths also were troubled.

17   The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; •

    your arrows flashed on every side;

18   The voice of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

    your lightnings lit up the ground; •

    the earth trembled and shook.

19   Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters, •

    but your footsteps were not known.

20   You led your people like sheep •

    by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

**To jump to:**

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### Ruth 1. 15-18; 2. 1-13; 4. 13-17

**A reading from the book of Ruth** *(Ruth 1. 15-18; 2. 1-13; 4. 13-17)*

Look, said Naomi, your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her. But Ruth replied, Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me. When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour. Naomi said to her, Go ahead, my daughter. So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, The LORD be with you! The LORD bless you! they called back. Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, Whose young woman is that? The foreman replied, She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter. So Boaz said to Ruth, My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled. At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me— a foreigner? Boaz replied, I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband— how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my lord, she said. You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant— though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls. So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth. Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. The women living there said, Naomi has a son. And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Ruth 1 etc)

## Psalm 61

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •

  according to the abundance of your compassion

  blot out my offences.

1  Hear my crying, O God, •

   and listen to my prayer.

2  From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart; •

   O set me on the rock that is higher than I.

3  For you are my refuge, •

   a strong tower against the enemy.

4  Let me dwell in your tent for ever •

   and take refuge under the cover of your wings.

5  For you, O God, will hear my vows; •

    you will grant the request of those who fear your name.

6  You will add length of days to the life of the king, •

   that his years may endure throughout all generations.

7  May he sit enthroned before God for ever; •

   may steadfast love and truth watch over him.

8  So will I always sing praise to your name, •

   and day by day fulfil my vows.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### 1 Samuel 1

**A reading from the first book of the Samuel** *(1 Samuel 1)*

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Elkanah her husband would say to her, Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons? Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head. As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine. Not so, my lord, Hannah replied, I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief. Eli answered, Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him. She said, May your servant find favour in your eyes. Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, Because I asked the LORD for him. When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfil his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always. Do what seems best to you, Elkanah her husband told her. Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word. So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he shall be given over to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE** (to go with 1 Samuel 1)

## A Song of Hannah

 Refrain:

**All Blessed are those who believe,  
for what God has promised will be fulfilled.**

1 My heart exults in the Lord; •  
my strength is exalted in my God.

2 My mouth derides my enemies, •  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

3 There is no Holy One like you, O Lord, •  
nor any Rock like you, our God.

4 For you are a God of knowledge •  
and by you our actions are weighed.

5 The bows of the mighty are broken, •  
but the feeble gird on strength.

6 Those who were full now hire themselves out for bread, •  
but those who were hungry are well fed.

7 The barren woman has borne sevenfold, •  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

8 Both the poor and the rich are of your making; •  
you bring low and you also exalt.

9 You raise up the poor from the dust, •  
and lift the needy from the ash heap.

10 You make them sit with the rulers •  
and inherit a place of honour.

11 For the pillars of the earth are yours •  
and on them you have set the world.

1 Samuel 2.1, 2, 3b-5, 7, 8

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### Isaiah 54:5-15

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah** *(Isaiah 54. 5-15)*

For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit— a wife who married young, only to be rejected, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, says the LORD your Redeemer. To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you. O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones. All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace. In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you. If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Isaiah 54)

## Psalm 30

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have raised me up •  
and have not let my foes triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you •  
and you have healed me.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; •  
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; •  
give thanks to his holy name.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
his favour for a lifetime. •  
Heaviness may endure for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning.

 6 In my prosperity I said,  
'I shall never be moved. •  
You, Lord, of your goodness,  
have made my hill so strong.'

7 Then you hid your face from me •  
and I was utterly dismayed.

8 To you, O Lord, I cried; •  
to the Lord I made my supplication:

9 'What profit is there in my blood,  
if I go down to the Pit? •  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; •  
O Lord, be my helper.'

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; •  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; •  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Isaiah 66:6-16

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah** *(Isaiah 66. 1-16)*

Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve. Before she goes into labour, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery? says the LORD. Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery? says your God. Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance. For this is what the LORD says: I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem. When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes. See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Isaiah 66)

## Psalm 113

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •

  according to the abundance of your compassion

  blot out my offences.

1 Alleluia.  
Give praise, you servants of the Lord, •  
O praise the name of the Lord.

2 Blessed be the name of the Lord, •  
from this time forth and for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting •  
let the name of the Lord be praised.

4 The Lord is high above all nations •  
and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the Lord our God,  
that has his throne so high, •  
yet humbles himself to behold  
the things of heaven and earth?

6 He raises the poor from the dust •  
and lifts the needy from the ashes,

7 To set them with princes, •  
with the princes of his people.

8 He gives the barren woman a place in the house •  
and makes her a joyful mother of children.  
Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Jeremiah 31:31-34

**A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah** *(Jeremiah 31. 31-34)*

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Jeremiah 31)

## Psalm 51. 8-18

8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; •

wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, •

that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

10 Turn your face from my sins •

and blot out all my misdeeds.

11 Make me a clean heart, O God, •

and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence •

and take not your holy spirit from me.

13 Give me again the joy of your salvation •

and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

14 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked •

and sinners shall return to you.

15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,

the God of my salvation, •

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

16 O Lord, open my lips •

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; •

you take no delight in burnt offerings.

18 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; •

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Ezekiel 47:1-12

**A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel** *(Ezekiel 47. 1-12)*

The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me round the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in— a river that no-one could cross. He asked me, Son of man, do you see this? Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds— like the fish of the Great Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Ezekiel 47)

## Psalm 46. 1-5

1 God is our refuge and strength, •  
a very present help in trouble;

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, •  
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

3 Though the waters rage and swell, •  
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, •  
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her;

    therefore shall she not be removed; •  
God shall help her at the break of day.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

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### Daniel 3:1-28

**A reading from the book of Daniel** *(Daniel 3. 1-28)*

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. Then the herald loudly proclaimed, This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshipped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever! You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon— Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego— who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up. Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude towards them changed. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire? They replied, Certainly, O king. He said, Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods. Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here! So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE** (to go with Daniel 3)

## Canticle: Bless the Lord *and* Benedicite (A Song of Creation)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •

  according to the abundance of your compassion

  blot out my offences.

**Bless the Lord**  *The Song of the Three 29-34*

1 Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

2 Blessed is your holy and glorious name, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

3 Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

4 Blessed are you who look into the depths, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

5 Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

6 Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

7 Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, •  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

**All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.**

## 

**Benedicite - A Song of Creation**  *The Song of the Three 35-65*  ***(shorter version follows)***

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: •  
 bless the Lord all you his hosts;

bless the Lord you waters above the heavens: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord sun and moon: •  
 bless the Lord you stars of heaven;

bless the Lord all rain and dew: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 Bless the Lord all winds that blow: •  
 bless the Lord you fire and heat;

bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord dews and falling snows: •  
 bless the Lord you nights and days;

bless the Lord light and darkness: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord frost and cold: •  
 bless the Lord you ice and snow;

bless the Lord lightnings and clouds: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 O let the earth bless the Lord: •  
 bless the Lord you mountains and hills;

bless the Lord all that grows in the ground: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

9 Bless the Lord you springs: •  
 bless the Lord you seas and rivers;

bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

10 Bless the Lord all birds of the air: •  
 bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;

bless the Lord all people on earth: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

11 O people of God bless the Lord: •  
 bless the Lord you priests of the Lord;

bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: •  
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

12 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: •  
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

**All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

## 

**Benedicite - A Song of Creation** *The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65*  ***(shorter version)***

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 O people of God bless the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: •  
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

**All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

### Daniel 6:1-24

**A reading from the book of Daniel** *(Daniel 6. 1-24)*

It pleased Darius to appoint one hundred and twenty satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally these men said, We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God. So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: O King Darius, live for ever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered— in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed. So King Darius put the decree in writing. Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den? The king answered, The decree stands— in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed. Then they said to the king, Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day. When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed. So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you! A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions? Daniel answered, O king, live for ever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king. The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Daniel 6)

## Psalm 34

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; •  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; •  
let the humble hear and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me; •  
let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me •  
and delivered me from all my fears.

5 Look upon him and be radiant •  
and your faces shall not be ashamed.

6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me •  
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him •  
and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; •  
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, •  
for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger, •  
but those who seek the Lord

    lack nothing that is good.

11 Come, my children, and listen to me; •  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is there who delights in life •  
and longs for days to enjoy good things?

13 Keep your tongue from evil •  
and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good; •  
seek peace and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous •  
and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, •  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them •  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted •  
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; •  
from them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones, •  
so that not one of them is broken.

21 But evil shall slay the wicked •  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants •  
and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

### Jonah 1-2:10

**A reading from the book of Jonah** *(Jonah 1. 2-10)*

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me. But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish. Then the sailors said to each other, Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity. They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you? He answered, I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land. This terrified them and they asked, What have you done? (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us? Pick me up and throw me into the sea, he replied, and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you. Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the LORD, O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased. Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again towards your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in for ever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD. And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM** (to go with Jonah 1)

## Psalm 130

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •

  according to the abundance of your compassion

  blot out my offences.

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice; •

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, •

O Lord, who could stand?

3 But there is forgiveness with you, •

so that you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; •

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night watch for the morning, •

more than the night watch for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, •

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him is plenteous redemption •

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen

**To jump to:**

HYMNS [click here](#hymnEVig); THEMES [click here](#EVigThemes); READINGS, PSALMS AND PRAYERS [click here](#EasterVigilPsetc)

**EASTER DAY**   **[YEARS A, B AND C]**

***Gold*** *or white*

*The following readings and psalms are provided for use at the principal Easter Day Service.*

*Acts 10.34–43 should be read as either the First or Second Reading.*

***Introduction:***

Without this wonderful day our faith is founded on a hopeful dream. If it was not for the Resurrection, the life and ministry of Jesus would remain simple historical fact and a good and inspiring story rather than the source of life that it truly is.

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
| GOSPEL used; |  |  |  |  | John | John |  |  |
| All heaven declares |  | s |  | 75 |  |  |  |  |
| Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the | gr | s | 136 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven | of | s | 137 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| At the Lamb’s high feast we sing | of | s | 138 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ is alive! Let Christians sing |  | g | 140 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christ the Lord is risen again |  | a | 141 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Come, risen Lord | of |  | 293 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem | ga/of | s | 409 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Come, ye faithful, raise the strain | ga | s | 143 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exult, creation round God’s throne |  | s |  | 71 |  |  |  |  |
| Good Christians all, rejoice and sing |  | g | 145 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Good Joseph had a garden |  | g | 146 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hail thee, festival day | ga/of | s |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jesus Christ is risen today | ga | s | 147 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Light’s glittering morn bedecks... | ga | g | 149 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Now is eternal life | gr/pc |  | 152 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Now the green blade riseth |  | g | 153 |  |  |  |  |  |
| O sons and daughters, let us sing |  | g | 154 |  |  |  |  |  |
| See, what a morning! |  | g(Jn) |  | 80 |  |  |  |  |
| Sing choirs of heaven! |  | s | 156 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sing of the Lord’s goodness |  | s |  | 309 |  |  |  |  |
| The day of resurrection |  | s | 157 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| The Lord is risen indeed! |  | s | 158 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The strife is o’er |  | s | 159 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Thine be the glory | pc | s | 160 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| This is the day, this is the day |  | s |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This joyful Eastertide |  | s | 161 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Word that formed creation |  | s |  | 81 |  |  |  |  |
| Ye choirs of new Jerusalem |  | s | 162 |  |  |  |  |  |
| You shall go out with joy |  |  |  | 82 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All people that on earth (RVW) |  | g | 369 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| I danced in the morning |  | pc | 468 |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Surrexit Christus, alleluia (Taize) |  | g |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Choir: Joy is come |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Acts 10:34-43

Peter's eye-witness account of Jesus' ministry, Passion and Resurrection, confirms the responsibility shared by all Christians to spread the word of God.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

God had to become human, in Christ, and live through all our human experiences in order to rescue us from these limitations — to die, so that he could draw us through death into new life.

**Gospel** John 20:1-18

Every Sunday is the feast of the Resurrection, when we renew our life in Christ. John's account draws us towards greater understanding until with Mary Magdalene we see him face to face.

***At the Easter garden:***

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: The angel said to the women: ‘Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen as he said.”

Blessed are you, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In your great mercy, you have given us new birth into a living hope

By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

By your blessing may we who have prepared this garden in celebration of his victory be strengthened in faith, know the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory, for he is alive and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

Today, like the Apostles we bear witness to the glory of God in the Resurrection of Jesus. He who died for us, now rises triumphantly, keeping the promises he made during his ministry.

***Collect***

Lord of all life and power,

who through the mighty resurrection of your Son

overcame the old order of sin and death

to make all things new in him:

grant that we, being dead to sin

and alive to you in Jesus Christ,

may reign with him in glory;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be praise and honour, glory and might,

now and in all eternity. **Amen** *Easter Day*

***or continuous form:***

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

***Alternative first readings,*** *Acts 10.34–43 should be read as either the First or Second Reading,* ***either***

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 10. 34–43)*

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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 to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and 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 ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### *or*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 65. 17–25)*

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord – and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 118. 1-2, 14-24**

***either***

***REFRAIN* This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;**

**his mercy endures for ever.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim,

‘His mercy endures for ever.’ ***Refrain***

14 The Lord is my strength and my song,

and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory

in the tents of the righteous:

16 ‘The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!

the right hand of the Lord is exalted!

the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!’ ***Refrain***

17 I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely,

but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. ***Refrain***

20 ‘This is the gate of the Lord;

whoever is righteous may enter.’

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief corner-stone. ***Refrain***

23 This is the Lord’s doing,

and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted;

we will rejoice and be glad in it. ***Refrain***

*The choir sing the anthem* ***"******Surrexit Christus"****, the congregation joining in the chorus (in bold type) [this may follow the gospel reading]:*

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

1. All you heavens, bless the Lord.

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

Stars of the heavens bless the Lord

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

2. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

for his love has no end.

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

3. The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song;

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

he has been my Saviour.

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

4 I shall not die, I shall live,

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

I shall live and recount his deeds.

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

5. All you heavens, bless the Lord.

Surrexit Christus alleluia!

Stars of the heavens, bless the Lord.

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

**SECOND READING**

***Alternative readings, either***

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor 15.1–11)*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor 15. 19–26)*

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** for text[click here](#Acts10_34) *(Acts 10. 34–43)*

**GOSPEL *Alternative readings***

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***either***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 20. 1–18)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘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 and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***or***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke *(Lk 24. 1–12)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**The Intercessions**

Priest: Let us pray for the Church, and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

(all kneel)

Leader: Father, we thank you for the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ from the dead. Shed his glorious light on all Christian people that we might live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for those who at this season are preparing to receive in baptism your Son’s new life by water and the Spirit … Dying with Christ, may they know the power of his resurrection.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for all whom we know and love, both near and far … May their eyes be opened to see and believe the glory of the risen Lord.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for all who suffer pain and anguish …

We continue to pray for … and for any we now mention in the silence of our own hearts. Grant them the faith to reach out towards the healing wounds of Christ and be filled with his peace.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We remember before you all who have died in the hope of the resurrection … Unite us with them in your undying love.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: Join our voices, we pray, Lord our God, to the songs of all your saints in proclaiming that you give us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

*from Lent, Holy Week, Easter p278*

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: At the heart of the mystery of the Resurrection is the love of God from which proceeds a deeper peace than we have ever known. Let us share this peace among us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (RCL)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

God of Life,

who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son

to the death of the cross,

and by his glorious resurrection

have delivered us from the power of our enemy:

grant us so to die daily to sin,

that we may evermore live with him

in the joy of his risen life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

May God's love fill you with peace and joy in the risen Christ.

May Jesus be your guiding light through every day.

May the Holy Spirit inspire renewed witness to your faith.

And the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you always.  **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE**

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

***If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.***

**Alternative Old Testament readings for Year B:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Second Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter2OTR) |
| Third Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter3OTR) |
| Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B – Baruch 3 | [click here](#Easter5AOTR) |
| Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B – Genesis 22 | [click here](#Easter5BOTR) |
| Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter5AOTR) |
| Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter6OTR) |
| Seventh Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter7OTR) |

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex. 14.10–31; 15.20–21)*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah** *(Zeph. 3.14–20)*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen.7. 1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13)*

The LORD said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.’ And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. In the six-hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind – every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, ‘Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh – birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.’ So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST READING**

***alternative readings***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch** *(Baruch 3. 9-15, 32-36; 4. 1-4)*

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses? But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, ‘Here we are!’ They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen. 22. 1-18)*

God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am.’ God said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Isaac said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ The angel said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The LORD will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa. 55. 1-11)*

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**FIRST** **READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ez. 36. 24–28)*

The word of the Lord came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**EASTER 2**   **[YEAR B]**

*Gold or white*

***Introduction and call to worship***

The central theme of today's worship is faith: we see the effects of the faith of the first Christian community; we hear of the saving faith which overcomes the world and we witness Thomas' journey from doubt to full faith in his risen Lord.

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Acts 4:32-35

The first Christians witness to the Lord both by telling of their experience of him and by the way they loved each other and shared all their possessions so that no one was in need. It is a model of Christian living.

**Second Reading** 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

Real faith in Christ is shown by the way we live. It is liberating to know that when we get things wrong, we can confess our sins to God and he will forgive us and give us a fresh start.

**Gospel** John 20:19-31

When Jesus appeared to his disciples he brought them deep peace and they put their faith in him. But even then faith did not come easily to everyone – Thomas' doubt, which was met and respected by Jesus, is som

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

With every blessing comes a commission: the disciples’ fear is cast aside as they receive the peace of Christ and breath in the very breath of God, making them ready to be sent out into the world. May we, like them, experience the deep and lasting peace that comes through faith in Christ, that we may not only share in the life of God but also bring that life to others and share that peace with all around us. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

Our loving Lord gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that sins may be forgiven. With trust in his compassion we turn to him with confidence to ask for his mercy.

***Collect***

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins

and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness

that we may always serve you

in the pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 2*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in the pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 4. 32–35)*

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

|  |  |
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| Second Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter2OTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 133**

***REFRAIN* How good and pleasant it is**

**to live together in unity.**

1 O how good and pleasant it is,

when a family lives together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head

that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron,

and runs down upon the collar of his robe. ***Refrain***

4 It is like the dew of Hermon

that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:

life for evermore. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 John 1.1 – 2.2)*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son 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 who is faithful and just 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 am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 20. 19–31)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

When Jesus stood among his disciples he said, "Peace be with you," and the disciples rejoiced. Let us rejoice in the fellowship we have with each other as we share Christ's peace together. The peace of the Lord...

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

Lord God our Father,

through our Saviour Jesus Christ

you have assured your children of eternal life

and in baptism have made us one with him:

deliver us from the death of sin

and raise us to new life in your love,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

May the Father shower his love upon you.

May the Son strengthen you in your faith.

May the Spirit breathe his life afresh in you and give you peace.

And may Almighty God bless you,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**EASTER 3**   **[YEAR B]**

*Gold or white*

***Introduction and call to worship***

The risen Christ offers us his redemptive love and forgiveness. Let us focus our thought on this truth together as we come before God in worship.

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading**  Acts 3:12-19

Peter reminds his listeners of the part they have played in the death of Jesus, but he reminds them also of the forgiveness of God if they repent. In God there is always the possibility of a new start.

**Second Reading**  1 John 3:1-7

Our faith in Christ gives us a whole identity: we are children of God. John tells his readers to remember who they are and what this means for their future.

**Gospel** Luke 24:36-48

When the disciples see the risen Lord they are filled with a powerful set of emotions: disbelief, incredulity, joy and wonder. Jesus understands their bewildered response to him and reassures them.

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

The gospels tell many stories of how the disciples came to terms with the reality of the resurrection. Here Jesus shows them that he is no ghost, but a living human being, and in doing so he also shows them that his own body, as every human body, is a place where God exists and reveals all that is holy. So may we become more Christ-like: human, and yet enjoying full communion with God and living to serve him. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

The risen Christ transforms and changes all our tomorrows. Let us bring our hopes and fears before him and ask him to bring healing transformation into our lives.

***Collect***

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples

with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained

by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 3*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**  *(Acts 3.12–19*)

Peter addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

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| Third Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter3OTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 4**

***REFRAIN* Lift up the light of your countenance**

**upon us, O Lord.**

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 ‘You mortals, how long will you dishonour my glory;

how long will you worship dumb idols

and run after false gods?’ ***Refrain***

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. ***Refrain***

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices

and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying,

‘O that we might see better times!’

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord. ***Refrain***

7 You have put gladness in my heart,

more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;

for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 John 3.1–7)*

See what love the Father has given us,that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*(Lk. 24. 36-48)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

May Christ's presence among us fill us with love, joy and peace, and may we have the grace to share these realities with one another. The peace of the Lord...

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

Living God,

your Son made himself known to his disciples

in the breaking of bread:

open the eyes of our faith,

that we may see him in all his redeeming work;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

May the joy of Easter enter into your lives.

May you come to the knowledge of God through doing his will,

and may you always know the blessing of God upon you.

The blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**EASTER 4**   **[YEAR B]**

*Gold or white*

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus laid down his life freely out of love for us. With grateful hearts we welcome the risen Christ here in our midst.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

**First Reading** Acts 4:5-12

The power of God enables the apostles to bring healing to the sick. In performing these healing miracles they focus attention on God, not on themselves.

**Second Reading** 1 John 3:16-24

Let our love for God and for other people not just be a matter of words and promises. Let it be an active love that stops at nothing.

**Gospel** John 10:11-18

Jesus describes the extent of his love for the human race by likening himself to a shepherd who will stop at nothing to protect and save his sheep from harm, even if it means losing his life.

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

There are so many things that call out for our attention that it can be hard to hear the voice of God, let alone to follow it – what can we tell people about Jesus that will help them learn to recognize his voice calling them to join his fold? We can say this: that amongst all the idols that vie for our allegiance, only the Good Shepherd has translated promises into actions and laid down his own life for his flock. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

Knowing the love of God is so great, we can be confident of approaching the throne of grace, asking pardon and peace.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him,

from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,

that we may seek those things which are above,

where he reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 4*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** (*Acts 4.5–12)*

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

|  |  |
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| Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter4OTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 23**

***REFRAIN* The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not be in want.**

1 The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters. ***Refrain***

3 He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ***Refrain***

5 You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** (*1 John 3.16–24)*

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn. 10. 11-18)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: The sheep can dwell in peace and security in the knowledge of the goodness of their shepherd. Let us share such peace with one another, both here in church and as we go into this week.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (Redemptorist)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,

and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:

keep us always under his protection,

and give us grace to follow in his steps;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

May the Good Shepherd lead you into all truth.

May the Good Shepherd guard you from danger.

May the Good Shepherd bring you to your everlasting home.

May God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  *(RCL)*

**EASTER 5**   **[YEAR B]**

*Gold or white*

***Introduction and call to worship***

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

It is when we are rooted in God that we flourish and know life in all its fullness. It is for this that we each were created; any existence apart from God is no existence at al. This is why prayer comes most easily when it is an expression of our genuine relationship with God – the life of God runs through us, and fruitfulness becomes not only possible but unstoppable. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

***Collect***

Almighty God,

who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ

has overcome death and opened to us

the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires,

so by your continual help

we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 5*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ has overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 8. 26–40)*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

|  |  |
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| Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B *alternative A: (Baruch 3. 9-15, 32-36; 4. 1-4)* | [click here](#Easter5AOTR) |
| Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B *alternative B: (Gen. 22. 1-18)* | [click here](#Easter5BOTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 22. 24-30**

***REFRAIN* All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly,

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

‘May your heart live for ever!’ ***Refrain***

26 All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations

shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;

he rules over the nations. ***Refrain***

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth

bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;

they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deeds that he has done. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 Jn 4. 7–21)*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 15. 1–8)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (Redemptorist)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

*(Redemptorist)*

**EASTER 6**   **[YEAR B]**

*Gold or white*

***Introduction and call to worship***

*In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we are not his servants, but his friends. We share in his intimacy with the Father and in his task of transforming the world. We may have confidence that God is with us and gives us the gifts which we need to do his work.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

Today's Readings

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

Jesus speaks of a love that comes from God and is experienced in our life with God; a love that is joyful yet self-sacrificial; a love that is fruitful, whose rewards much more than justify the price. This kind of love is the gift of a God who did not wait for us to find him, but who sought us out and gave us a part in his purposes. As friends of God, let us be glad to respond by making this commandment a reality. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

***or***

Recalling God's great love for those who take up his invitation to serve him in the world we come before him with confidence. *(Redemptorist)*

***Collect***

God our redeemer,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,

so by his continual presence in us he may raise us

to eternal joy;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 6*

***or continuous form:***

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 10.44–48)*

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter6OTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 98**

***REFRAIN* The Lord has made known his victory**

**in the sight of the nations.**

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvellous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm

has he won for himself the victory. ***Refrain***

3 The Lord has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown

in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness

to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen

the victory of our God. ***Refrain***

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the Lord. ***Refrain***

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,

the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,

when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world,

and the peoples with equity. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 John 5.1–6)*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 15. 9-17)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: The gift of friendship with God is the fullness of joy and with such joy comes a deep peace. One which the world cannot give.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (Redemptorist)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces from Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

***Additional Short Prefaces***

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *[ASB]*

***or***

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people, life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

God our Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:

may we thirst for you,

the spring of life and source of goodness,

through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**  *(CW)*

***or***

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[ASB]*

***or***

May God pour out his Grace upon you.

May you be filled with wisdom and strength.

May you never be separated from the friendship of God.

And may you be gifted with the joy and peace of the

Trinity of Love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever. **Amen**. *(Redemptorist)*

**ASCENSION DAY**   **[YEARS A, B and C]**

*Gold or white*

*The reading from Acts must be used in the Revised Common Lectionary. Church of England provision allows Daniel 7.9–14 as an alternative First Reading, in which case Acts 1.1–11, rather than Ephesians 1.15–23, must be used as the Second Reading.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

***Collect***

Grant, we pray, almighty God,

that as we believe your only-begotten Son

our Lord Jesus Christ

to have ascended into the heavens,

so we in heart and mind may also ascend

and with him continually dwell;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Ascension Day*

***or continuous form:***

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the Acts** **of the Apostles** *(Acts 1. 1–11)*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This,’ he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that 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 this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of Daniel** *(Dan 7. 9–14)*

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM  *either***

**Psalm 47**

***REFRAIN* God has gone up with a shout,**

**the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.**

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;

shout to God with a cry of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared;

he is the great king over all the earth. ***Refrain***

3 He subdues the peoples under us,

and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us,

the pride of Jacob whom he loves. ***Refrain***

5 God has gone up with a shout,

the Lord with the sound of the ram’s-horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our king, sing praises. ***Refrain***

7 For God is king of all the earth;

sing praises with all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations;

God sits upon his holy throne. ***Refrain***

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together

with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God,

and he is highly exalted. ***Refrain***

***or***

**Psalm 93**

***REFRAIN* The Lord is king**

# and has girded himself with strength.

1 The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;

the Lord has put on his apparel

and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure

that it cannot be moved; ***Refrain***

3 Ever since the world began,

your throne has been established;

you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord,

the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves. ***Refrain***

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,

mightier than the breakers of the sea,

mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure,

and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,

for ever and for evermore. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING  *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Ephes 1. 15–23)*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or* Acts 1. 1–11** *for text,* [*click here*](#Acts11to11)

**GOSPEL**

Priest Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*(Lk 24. 44–53)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.’ Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for Ascension Day]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, after his most glorious resurrection, he appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because, after his most glorious resurrection, he appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

***Post communion prayer***

God our Father,

you have raised our humanity in Christ

and have fed us with the bread of heaven:

mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,

we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***alternative post communion prayer (origin unknown)***

Eternal God, giver of love and power,

your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world

to preach the gospel of his kingdom:

confirm us in this mission,

and help us live the good news we proclaim;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[CW]*

***or***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,

that you may reign with him in glory;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.  **Amen**  *(ASB)*

**EASTER 7** *also known as* **THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION**  **[YEAR B]**

***[Propers for the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost]***

*Gold or white*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus drew his disciples into his intimate relationship with his Father and prayed for their protection and encouragement because he would be glorified in them. So today with us. Jesus lives in us, he has confidence in us, and we must take his Word to the world.*

Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Acts 1:15-17. 20-26

We pray and refer to Scripture to make right choices, as the disciples did in seeking guidance in choosing Matthias to become the replacement Apostle after Judas' death.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5: 9-13

God speaks to his people in and through his Son. If we believe one, then we also possess the other and we can believe that these testimonies are truth, through which we are saved.

**Gospel**: John 17: 6-19

Jesus' prayer is for all Christians in all times and places. For our sanctification, our safety from the evil one and for our consecration in the work we do for God in the world.

***RSCM ‘comment’:***

To be in the world yet not of the world is a tough balancing act, but it is one we must take seriously if we are to be true to the God who became incarnate. Real discipleship does not mean finding a comfortable middle way; it means responding to the demands of being God’s holy people in the midst of a world that so needs to know its creator and redeemer. *(2006)*

***Invitation to Confession***

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

***or***

Jesus lives in us, His Spirit creates and re-creates us each day as we dedicate ourselves to him and he is with us in all that we do. *(Redemptorist)*

***Collect***

O God the king of glory,

you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ

with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:

we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,

but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us

and exalt us to the place

where our Saviour Christ is gone before,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Easter 6*

***or continuous form:***

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 1.15–17, 21–26)*

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN EASTERTIDE

*For those who require an Old Testament reading on the Sundays in Eastertide, provision is made in the Supplement,*

*(Church of England) or (Church of Ireland/Church in Wales).*

*If these are used, the reading from Acts must be used as the Second Reading.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Seventh Sunday of Easter Year B | [click here](#Easter7OTR) |

**PSALM**

**Psalm 1**

***REFRAIN* Happy are they who trust in the Lord.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* The Lord knows the way of the righteous.**

1 Happy are they who have not walked

in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners,

nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and night. ***Refrain***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,

bearing fruit in due season,

with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper. ***Refrain***

4 It is not so with the wicked:

they are like chaff which the wind blows away;

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright

when judgement comes,

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked is doomed. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 John 5.9–13)*

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people

and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John*(John 17.6–19)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: ‘Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Peace is the gift of God. It is the fruit of accepting his invitation and living in his presence day by day, consecrated and sanctified by the prayers of his Son, the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (Redemptorist)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of thy majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church thy holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E on days between Ascension Day and Pentecost***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost. Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest

who has entered once for all

into the heavenly sanctuary,

evermore to pour upon your Church

the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,

who calls us to be united in prayer

as were his disciples in the upper room

while they awaited his promised gift,

the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing

as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Eternal God, giver of love and power,

your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world

to preach the gospel of his kingdom:

confirm us in this mission,

and help us to live the good news we proclaim;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[CW]*

***or***

May the call to serve God give you confidence.

May your acceptance bring you a deep peace.

May your words be heard and your actions inspire

many souls to grow closer to God.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be yours forever. **Amen**. *(Redemptorist)*

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**   **[YEAR B]**

*Red*

***Introduction***

*Each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leads us to the truth and enables us to continue Christ's work in the world.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

***or***

The Spirit of truth will convict the world of guilt about sin, righteousness and judgement. We have grieved the Holy Spirit. So let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

God, who as at this time

taught the hearts of your faithful people

by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:

grant us by the same Spirit

to have a right judgement in all things

and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;

through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.  **Amen** *Day of Pentecost*

***or continuous form:***

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  **Amen**

***The reading from*** [***Acts***](#PentecostActs2) ***must be used as either the First or Second Reading.***

**FIRST READING  *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 2. 1–21)*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ez. 37. 1–14)*

The hand of the Lord came upon me,and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.‘ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 104. 25-35, 37**

***REFRAIN* Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,**

**and renew the face of the earth.**

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

in wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures. ***Refrain***

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea

with its living things too many to number,

creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan,

which you have made for the sport of it. ***Refrain***

28 All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them, they gather it;

you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face and they are terrified;

you take away their breath

and they die and return to their dust. ***Refrain***

31 You send forth your Spirit and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles;

he touches the mountains and they smoke. ***Refrain***

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him;

I will rejoice in the Lord.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING  *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom 8. 22–27)*

We know that the whole creationhas been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**  *(Acts 2. 1–21) for text,* [*click here*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\All%20M'sliturgySheets%22%20l#Acts21to21)

**GOSPEL**

Priest Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord *(Jn 15. 26–27, 16. 4b–15)*

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit. The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (ASB)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language, CW)***

And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of thy majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church thy holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

***Short preface (contemporary language, ASB)***

And now we give you thanks because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth, and give us power to proclaim your gospel to the nations, and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E on the Day of Pentecost***

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord. This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth, and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith. Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father, to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,

through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks

because in fulfilment of your promise

you pour out your Spirit upon us,

filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,

and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,

to proclaim your gospel to all nations

and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,

and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,

to proclaim the glory of your name,

for ever praising you and saying:

***Post communion prayer***

Faithful God,

who fulfilled the promise of Easter

by sending us your Holy Spirit

and opening to every race and nation

the way of life eternal:

open our lips by your Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***or continuous form:***

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen**

***Blessing***

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[CW]*

***or***

May the Father pour out his gifts of mercy and goodness upon you.

May the Son heal you with his compassion and love.

May the Spirit lead you in wisdom and peace.

And may Almighty God bless you,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *(Redemptorist)*

**THE WEEKDAYS AFTER THE DAY OF PENTECOST**   **[YEAR B]**

*Green*

*needs text inserting*

***Invitation to Confession***

My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

***Collect***

O Lord, from whom all good things come:

grant to us your humble servants,

that by your holy inspiration

we may think those things that are good,

and by your merciful guiding may perform the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Days after Pentecost*

***or continuous form:***

O Lord, from whom all good things come: grant to us your humble servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING  *(from the Daily Lectionary)***

***on Wednesday***

**A reading from the letter of St James** *(Jas 1. 19-end)*

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***on Thursday***

**A reading from the letter of St James** *(Jas 2. 1-9)*

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

***on Wednesday***

**Psalm 119. 161-168 or Psalm 15**

***on Thursday***

**Psalm 1 or Psalm 34. 1-7**

**GOSPEL**

***on Wednesday***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 9. 38-40)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***on Thursday***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 9. 41-end)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward. "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Everyone will be salted with fire. "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

PriestWe are the Body of Christ

**All: In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

When the gifts have been placed on the altar:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all salvation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer; fruit if the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us the cup of salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***as in ordinary time – there are no seasonal prefaces.***

***Post communion prayer***

Faithful God,

who fulfilled the promise of Easter

by sending us your Holy Spirit

and opening to every race and nation

the way of life eternal:

open our lips by your Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***or continuous form:***

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen**

***Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**TRINITY SUNDAY**   **[YEAR B]**

*White or gold.*

*updated in 2006*

***Introduction***

*God has declared himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We meet to worship him, our Creator, Redeemer and Inspiration.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's version of God in the Temple humbles him and brings him to offer himself to the service of God.

**Second Reading** Romans 8:12-17

The Spirit of God brings us out of slavery into freedom as children of God.

**Gospel** John 3:1-17

The very heart of the Christian Good News. God loves the human family so much that he wants to save it from its own worst self and bring it to eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his Son.

***Invitation to Confession***

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for idols of our own imagining. As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity, and to worship him in spirit and in truth, let us call to mind our sins *(Times and Seasons?)*

***or***

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

***or***

Holy, holy, holy: when our eyes have seen the Lord of hosts we echo the words of Isaiah, ‘Woe is me! I am doomed.’ We long for the fire of God’s cleansing to touch our unclean lips, for our iniquity to be removed and our sin wiped out. So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit with confession on our lips. Amen *(Patterns p38)*

***Collect***

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given us your servants grace,

by the confession of a true faith,

to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity

and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Trinity Sunday*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***alternative shorter collect:***

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

*The Revised Common Lectionary and the Church of England make alternative provision for the First Reading. The Church of England reading is the one from Isaiah.*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Isa 6. 1–8)*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. ’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 29**

***REFRAIN* The Lord shall give his people**

**the blessing of peace.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* In God’s temple all cry ‘Glory!’**

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. ***Refrain***

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. ***Refrain***

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. ***Refrain***

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord

all are crying, ‘Glory!’

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom 8. 12–17)*



Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(John 3. 1–17)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***or***

Priest: Holy God, Three-in-One and One-in-Three, you live in perfect unity. May your peace possess our hearts and minds.

The peace of the triune God be always with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (Redemptorist)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***[Prefaces for Trinity Sunday]***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed the glory of your eternal fellowship of love with your Son and with the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because thou hast revealed the glory of thine eternal fellowship of love with thy Son and with the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord. All that you reveal of your glory, the same we believe of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, without any difference or inequality. We, your holy Church, acclaim you, Father of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Three Persons we adore, one in being and equal in majesty. And so with angels and archangels, with cherubim and seraphim, we sing for ever of your glory:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit

you are one God, one Lord.

All that you reveal of your glory,

the same we believe of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, without any difference or inequality.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you,

Father of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

Three Persons we adore,

one in being and equal in majesty.

And so with angels and archangels,

with cherubim and seraphim,

we sing for ever of your glory:

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty and eternal God,

you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:

hold us firm in this faith,

that we may know you in all your ways

and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,

who are three Persons yet one God,

now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[CW]*

**TRINITY SUNDAY YEAR B**

**Trinity Sunday (B)**

**Introduction and call to worship**

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **S Pr** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** | **2018** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

#### Intro to Confession (Common Worship)

#### God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

**Invitation to confession**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, we come before him with confidence for the forgiveness of our sins.

**The Collect:**

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given us your servants grace,

by the confession of a true faith,

to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity

and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Trinity Sunday Collect etc*

**Peace** (Common Worship)

Priest:Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver. The peace of the triune God be always with you.

All: And also with you.

**Peace (ASB p128)**

We are the Body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**Introduction to the Peace**

The peace of the Lord.

**In place of the Eucharistic Prayer:**

The Church of God, of which we are members, has taken bread and wine, and given thanks over them according to our Lord’s command. Today we share these holy gifts, which have become for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this sacrament, we who are many are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

(All kneel)

In thanks giving to the Father, who in his great goodness has richly blessed us, and who sent his Son to be our Saviour, let us pray in the power of the Spirit, using the words our Lord Jesus Christ gave us.

**Proper Preface (ASB p156, 19)**

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed your glory as the glory of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one Lord one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

**Blessing (ASB p160)**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you always. **Amen**

**Blessing**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side and guide you in truth and peace.

And the blessing of God.

**FIRST READING**

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING**

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL**

This is the gospel of Christ

#### All: Praise to Christ our Lord

**Post Communion**

Almighty and eternal God,

you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:

hold us firm in this faith,

that we may know you in all your ways

and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,

who are three Persons yet one God,

now and for ever. **Amen**

**CORPUS CHRISTI**   **THANKSGIVING FOR INSTITUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION [YEAR A, B, C]**

*White needs text inserting*

***Hymns:***

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*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

*child known to our children*

*unity For Wk of Pray for Christian Unity*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

***Collect***

Lord Jesus Christ,

we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament

you have given us the memorial of your passion:

grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries

of your body and blood

that we may know within ourselves

and show forth in our lives

the fruits of your redemption;

for you are alive and reign with the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Corpus Christi*

***or continuous form:***

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 14. 18–20)*

King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!’ And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 116. 10-17**

10  How shall I repay the Lord

  for all the benefits he has given to me?

**11  I will lift up the cup of salvation**

**and call upon the name of the Lord.**

12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

  in the presence of all his people.

**13  Precious in the sight of the Lord**

**is the death of his faithful servants.**

14  O Lord, I am your servant,

   your servant, the child of your handmaid;

   you have freed me from my bonds.

**15  I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving**

**and call upon the name of the Lord.**

16  I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

   in the presence of all his people,

**17 In the courts of the house of the Lord,**

**in the midst**

***or (in earlier lectionaries)***

**Psalm 8**

***REFRAIN* I will walk in the presence of the Lord**

**in the land of the living.**

10 How shall I repay the Lord

for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call upon the name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all his people. ***Refrain***

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord

is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds. ***Refrain***

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call upon the name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all his people.

17 In the courts of the Lord’s house,

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(1 Cor. 11. 23–26)*

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(****Jn 6. 51–58)***

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the Jews: ‘I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,’ says the Lord,

‘there am I in the midst of them.’ The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

***Offertory Prayers***

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; and on the night before he suffered, sitting at table with his disciples, he instituted these holy mysteries, that we, redeemed by his death and restored to life by his resurrection, might be partakers of his divine nature.

***Short Preface (traditional language)***

And now we give thee thanks because, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; and on the night before he suffered, sitting at table with his disciples, he instituted these holy mysteries, that we, redeemed by his death and restored to life by his resurrection, might be partakers of his divine nature.

***Post communion prayer***

All praise to you, our God and Father,

for you have fed us with the bread of heaven

and quenched our thirst from the true vine:

hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,

we may grow together in unity

and feast with him in his kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

All praise to you, our God and Father, for you have fed us with the bread of heaven and quenched our thirst from the true vine: hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ, we may grow together in unity and feast with him in his kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *[CW]*

**SUNDAYS AFTER TRINITY**   **[YEAR B]**

*Green needs text inserting*

SUNDAYS AFTER TRINITY

*The Church of England names the Sundays after Trinity Sunday ‘Sundays after Trinity’.*

*The readings are provided by calendar date.*

*On most Sundays the First Reading and Psalm follow two tracks (continuous and related). One track must be followed through the whole sequence.*

Sundays after Trinity and Propers do not correlate from year to year. This section contains material relevant to all the Sundays, and links to the Propers ([collect](#Trinitycollects), readings and gospel reading) follow. The choice of Proper should be determined from the Lectionary or by date:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proper:** | **Sunday between:** | **To proceed to Proper** |
| [3](#Proper3N) | 24 May to 28 May (RCL readings for Epiphany 8) | [click here](#Proper3N) |
| [4](#Proper4N) | 29 May to 4 June | [click here](#Proper4N) |
| [5](#Proper5N) | 5 June to 11 June | [click here](#Proper5N) |
| [6](#Proper6N) | 12 June to 18 June | [click here](#Proper6N) |
| [7](#Proper7N) | 19 June to 25 June | [click here](#Proper7N) |
| [8](#Proper8N) | 26 June to 2 July | [click here](#Proper8N) |
| [9](#Proper9N) | 3 July to 9 July | [click here](#Proper9N) |
| [10](#Proper10N) | 10 July to 16 July | [click here](#Proper10N) |
| [11](#Proper11N) | 17 July to 23 July | [click here](#Proper11N) |
| [12](#Proper12N) | 24 July to 30 July | [click here](#Proper12N) |
| [13](#Proper13N) | 31 July to 6 August | [click here](#Proper13N) |
| [14](#Proper14N) | 7 August to 13 August | [click here](#Proper14N) |
| [15](#Proper15N) | 14 August to 20 August | [click here](#Proper15N) |
| [16](#Proper16N) | 21 August to 27 August | [click here](#Proper16N) |
| [17](#Proper17N) | 28 August to 3 September | [click here](#Proper17N) |
| [18](#Proper18N) | 4 September to 10 September | [click here](#Proper18N) |
| [19](#Proper19N) | 11 September to 17 September | [click here](#Proper19N) |
| [20](#Proper20N) | 18 September to 24 September | [click here](#Proper20N) |
| [21](#Proper21N) | 25 September to 1 October | [click here](#Proper21N) |
| [22](#Proper22N) | 2 October to 8 October | [click here](#Proper22N) |
| [23](#Proper23N) | 9 October to 15 October | [click here](#Proper23N) |
| [24](#Proper24N) | 16 October to 22 October | [click here](#Proper24N) |
| [25](#Proper25N) | 23 October to 30 October | [click here](#Proper25N) |
| [26](#Proper26N) | Fourth Sunday before Advent | [click here](#Proper26N) |
| [27](#Proper27N) | Third Sunday before Advent | [click here](#Proper27N) |
| [28](#Proper28N) | Second Sunday before Advent | [click here](#Proper28N) |
| [29](#Proper29N) | Sunday next before Advent – Christ the King | [click here](#Proper29N) |

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and live in love and peace.

**Alternative 1**

My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Alternative 2**

Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God’s family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

**Alternative 3**

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God.

**Alternative 4: *This invitation may be used after the Commandments, the Comfortable Words or the Exhortation, or may be introduced by a penitential sentence of Scripture***

You then, who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God.

***The confession follows without further invitation.***

***Alternative introductions to confession from various sources.***

None of us can boast that we are perfect – we all stand in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace to see our lives as he does as we come before him in penitence and prayer *(RCL A4)*

Christ Jesus has reconciled us to one another and to the Father. Let us pray that his Spirit of forgiveness will free us from sin and give us peace. *(RCL A4 Proper 19)*

Let us remember that God wants to give us his love and mercy and forgiveness, so let us come before him to confess our sins with open hearts. *(RCL A4 – Proper 20)*

For all of us there are times when we have turned away from our commitment to God and followed our own selfish ambitions. We need God's cleansing grace to bring us back into right relationship with him *(RCL A4 – Proper 21)*

The loving mercy of God fills the heights of the earth and the depths of the sea. He will never turn us away, so let us turn to him now with open hearts. *(RCL A4 – Proper 22)*

God knows all our needs and is always ready to help us. Let us acknowledge our need of his mercy as we come before him in prayer. *(RCL A4 – Proper 23)*

To see the Summary of the Law, [click here](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Common%20worship%20-%20texts\Penitential%20Material%202001.doc#_SummaryoftheLaw)

To see the Commandments, [click here](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Common%20worship%20-%20texts\Penitential%20Material%202001.doc#_Commandments).

***Collect: the collect for each Sunday after Trinity may be found from the following***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Collect** | **Post Comm. Prayer** |
| First Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity1C) | [click here](#Trinity1PC) |
| Second Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity2C) | [click here](#Trinity2PC) |
| Third Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity3C) | [click here](#Trinity3PC) |
| Fourth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity4C) | [click here](#Trinity4PC) |
| Fifth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity5C) | [click here](#Trinity5PC) |
| Sixth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity6C) | [click here](#Trinity6PC) |
| Seventh Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity7C) | [click here](#Trinity7PC) |
| Eighth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity8C) | [click here](#Trinity8PC) |
| Ninth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity9C) | [click here](#Trinity9PC) |
| Tenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity10C) | [click here](#Trinity10PC) |
| Eleventh Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity11C) | [click here](#Trinity11PC) |
| Twelfth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity12C) | [click here](#Trinity12PC) |
| Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity13C) | [click here](#Trinity13PC) |
| Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity14C) | [click here](#Trinity14PC) |
| Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity15C) | [click here](#Trinity15PC) |
| Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity16C) | [click here](#Trinity16PC) |
| Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity17C) | [click here](#Trinity17PC) |
| Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity18C) | [click here](#Trinity18PC) |
| Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity19C) | [click here](#Trinity19PC) |
| Twentieth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity20C) | [click here](#Trinity20PC) |
| Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity21C) | [click here](#Trinity21PC) |
| Last Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#TrinityLastC) | [click here](#TrinityLastPC) |
| Bible Sunday | [click here](#TrinityLastC) | [click here](#TrinityLastPC) |

***For set readings, move to appropriate Proper.*** [click here](#TrinityPropers)

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the Body of Christ.

All: In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another. (CW)

**Alternative 1**

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

**Alternative 2**

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

**Alternative 3**

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alternative 4**

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

**Alternative 5**

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

**Alternative 6**

‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,’ says the Lord, ‘there am I in the midst of them.’

**Alternative 7**

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

***Alternative introductions to the peace from various sources.***

Love does no wrong to anyone, and where there is love, so there is also peace. Let us resolve to live in love as we share Christ's peace with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The way of Christ is love, joy and peace. Let us share his peace with each other in this church and in our lives. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (RCL A4 – Proper 20)

We are called to live together as the body of Christ and to reflect his love and peace. Let us therefore always share his peace with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (RCL A4 – Proper 21)

May we all know the peace of Christ in our hearts and in our homes and may we share it always with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (RCL A4 – Proper 22)

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks because you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in him.

***or***

And now we give you thanks because on the first day of the week he overcame death and the grave and opened to us the way of everlasting life.

***or***

and now we give you thanks because by the water and the Holy Spirit you have made us in him a new people to show forth your glory.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E on Sundays before Lent and after Trinity***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death

with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing Sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels

and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity1PC) |
| Second Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity2PC) |
| Third Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity3PC) |
| Fourth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity4PC) |
| Fifth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity5PC) |
| Sixth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity6PC) |
| Seventh Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity7PC) |
| Eighth Sunday after Trinity | [click here](#Trinity8PC) |
| Ninth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Tenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Eleventh Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Twelfth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Twentieth Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity |  |
| Last Sunday after Trinity |  |

***Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen *[CW]***

***Alternative blessings from various sources.***

May your minds be filled with hope,

your hearts with love,

and your lives with peace:

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May the God of justice and compassion

fill your life with his goodness and love;

may he give you peace and strength,

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

May God show you mercy and fill you with grace;

may he give you peace and a vision of his glory;

may he move your hearts to forgive and to love;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

May you always be aware of God's great love for you.

May that love for you live in your hearts.

May it show forth in your actions.

And may the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

bless you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

Christ, who has nourished us with himself, the living bread,

make you one in praise and love;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(ASB)*  ***Harvest***

May the Lord who is just, keep you in his truth;

may the Lord who is tender-hearted, show you his love;

and may you all grow with the blessing of God upon you;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

May you be filled with compassion and understanding;

may you be strengthened and filled with new life;

may you be guided in the truth.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

May the Father remove all your sadness;

may the Son fill you with joy;

may the Holy Spirit lead you safely to God's home

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever. **Amen.** *(RCL A4)*

**Collects and Post Communion prayers for Trinity season:**

***First Sunday after Trinity:***

O God,

the strength of all those who put their trust in you,

mercifully accept our prayers

and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature

we can do no good thing without you,

grant us the help of your grace,

that in the keeping of your commandments

we may please you both in will and deed;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 1:***

Eternal Father,

we thank you for nourishing us

with these heavenly gifts:

may our communion strengthen us in faith,

build us up in hope,

and make us grow in love;

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Second Sunday after Trinity:***

Lord, you have taught us

that all our doings without love are nothing worth:

send your Holy Spirit

and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,

the true bond of peace and of all virtues,

without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ’s sake,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ’s sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 2:***

Loving Father,

we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:

sustain us with your Spirit,

that we may serve you here on earth

until our joy is complete in heaven,

and we share in the eternal banquet

with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Third Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty God,

you have broken the tyranny of sin

and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts

whereby we call you Father:

give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,

that we and all creation may be brought

to the glorious liberty of the children of God;

through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 3:***

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining

and whose power we cannot comprehend:

show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,

and shield us from knowing more than we can bear

until we may look upon you without fear;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  **Amen**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

***Fourth Sunday after Trinity:***

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,

without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:

increase and multiply upon us your mercy;

that with you as our ruler and guide

we may so pass through things temporal

that we lose not our hold on things eternal;

grant this, heavenly Father,

for our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 4:***

Eternal God,

comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,

you have fed us at the table of life and hope:

teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,

that all the world may acknowledge

the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Fifth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty and everlasting God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church

is governed and sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,

that in their vocation and ministry

they may serve you in holiness and truth

to the glory of your name;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 5:***

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,

that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered

by your governance,

that your Church may joyfully serve you

in all godly quietness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Sixth Sunday after Trinity:***

Merciful God,

you have prepared for those who love you

such good things as pass our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love toward you

that we, loving you in all things and above all things,

may obtain your promises,

which exceed all that we can desire;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion prayer for Trinity 6:***

God of our pilgrimage,

you have led us to the living water:

refresh and sustain us

as we go forward on our journey,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Seventh Sunday after Trinity:***

Lord of all power and might,

the author and giver of all good things:

graft in our hearts the love of your name,

increase in us true religion,

nourish us with all goodness

and of your great mercy keep us in the same;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Trinity 7*

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 7:***

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,

ever giving himself that the world may live:

may we so receive within ourselves

the power of his death and passion

that, in his saving cup,

we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

***Eighth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,

we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern

both our hearts and bodies

in the ways of your laws

and the works of your commandments;

that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,

we may be preserved in body and soul;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 8:***

Strengthen for service, Lord,

the hands that have taken holy things;

may the ears which have heard your word

be deaf to clamour and dispute;

may the tongues which have sung your praise

be free from deceit;

may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love

shine with the light of hope;

and may the bodies which have been fed with your body

be refreshed with the fullness of your life;

glory to you for ever. **Amen**

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

***Ninth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty God,

who sent your Holy Spirit

to be the life and light of your Church:

open our hearts to the riches of your grace,

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love and joy and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Trinity 9*

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 9:***

Holy Father,

who gathered us here around the table of your Son

to share this meal with the whole household of God:

in that new world

where you reveal the fullness of your peace,

gather people of every race and language

to share in the eternal banquet

of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Tenth Sunday after Trinity:***

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,

be open to the prayers of your humble servants;

and that they may obtain their petitions

make them to ask such things as shall please you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 10:***

God of our pilgrimage,

you have willed that the gate of mercy

should stand open for those who trust in you:

look upon us with your favour

that we who follow the path of your will

may never wander from the way of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Eleventh Sunday after Trinity:***

O God, you declare your almighty power

most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:

mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,

that we, running the way of your commandments,

may receive your gracious promises,

and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Trinity 11*

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 11:***

Lord of all mercy,

we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice

which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:

by our communion

keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel

and preserve us from all sin;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Twelfth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty and everlasting God,

you are always more ready to hear than we to pray

and to give more than either we desire or deserve:

pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,

forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid

and giving us those good things

which we are not worthy to ask

but through the merits and mediation

of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 12:***

God of all mercy,

in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins

and given us your healing:

grant that we who are made whole in Christ

may bring that healing to this broken world,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of all mercy, in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty God,

who called your Church to bear witness

that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 13:***

God our creator,

you feed your children with the true manna,

the living bread from heaven:

let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage

until we come to that place

where hunger and thirst are no more;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty God,

whose only Son has opened for us

a new and living way into your presence:

give us pure hearts and steadfast wills

to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 14*

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 14:***

Lord God, the source of truth and love,

keep us faithful to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,

united in prayer and the breaking of bread,

and one in joy and simplicity of heart,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit

upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent

in the fellowship of the gospel

that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 15*

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 15:***

Keep, O Lord, your Church

with your perpetual mercy;

and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,

keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,

and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Keep, O Lord, your Church with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers

of your people who call upon you;

and grant that they may both perceive and know

what things they ought to do,

and also may have grace and power

faithfully to fulfil them;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 16*

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 16:***

Almighty God,

you have taught us through your Son

that love is the fulfilling of the law:

grant that we may love you with our whole heart

and our neighbours as ourselves;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty God,

you have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:

pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,

and so bring us at last to your heavenly city

where we shall see you face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 17*

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 17:***

Lord, we pray that your grace

may always precede and follow us,

and make us continually to be given to all good works;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

Almighty and everlasting God,

increase in us your gift of faith

that, forsaking what lies behind

and reaching out to that which is before,

we may run the way of your commandments

and win the crown of everlasting joy;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 18*

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 18:***

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:

for here we receive you,

here the memory of your passion is renewed,

here our minds are filled with grace,

and here a pledge of future glory is given,

when we shall feast at that table where you reign

with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

***Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity:***

O God, forasmuch as without you

we are not able to please you;

mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit

may in all things direct and rule our hearts;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 19*

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 19:***

Holy and blessed God,

you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son

and filled us with your Holy Spirit:

may we honour you,

not only with our lips

but in lives dedicated to the service

of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Twentieth Sunday after Trinity:***

God, the giver of life,

whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:

by the Spirit’s gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ

and make us eager to do your will,

that we may share with the whole creation

the joys of eternal life;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 20*

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit’s gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 20:***

God our Father,

whose Son, the light unfailing,

has come from heaven to deliver the world

from the darkness of ignorance:

let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding

that we may know the way of life,

and walk in it without stumbling;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity:***

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,

to your faithful people pardon and peace,

that they may be cleansed from all their sins

and serve you with a quiet mind;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Trinity 21*

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 21:***

Father of light,

in whom is no change or shadow of turning,

you give us every good and perfect gift

and have brought us to birth by your word of truth:

may we be a sign of that kingdom

where your whole creation will be made perfect

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Father of light, in whom is no change or shadow of turning, you give us every good and perfect gift and have brought us to birth by your word of truth: may we be a sign of that kingdom where your whole creation will be made perfect in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Last Sunday after Trinity: [also for Bible Sunday]***

Blessed Lord,

who caused all holy scriptures

to be written for our learning:

help us so to hear them,

to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them

that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast

the hope of everlasting life,

which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen *Last Sunday after Trinity/ Bible Sunday*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Post Communion Prayer for Last Sunday after Trinity: [also for Bible Sunday]***

God of all grace,

your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry

with the bread of his life

and the word of his kingdom:

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness

sustain us by your true and living bread;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**PROPER ‘3’**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 24 AND 28 MAY**

[if after Trinity Sunday]

*Green updated for 2006*

Note: The Revised Common Lectionary provision for Epiphany 8 is used.

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea** *(Hosea 2.14–20)*

The LORD says this concerning Israel, his people: I will now persuade her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. From there I will give her her vineyards, and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. On that day, says the LORD, you will call me, ‘My husband,’ and no longer will you call me, ‘My Baal.’ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more. I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 103. 1-13, 22**

***REFRAIN* Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits. ***Refrain***

3 He forgives all your sins

and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s. ***Refrain***

6 The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses

and his works to the children of Israel. ***Refrain***

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us,

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. ***Refrain***

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our sins from us. ***Refrain***

13 As a father cares for his children,

so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,

in all places of his dominion;

bless the Lord, O my soul. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(2Cor. 3. 1b-6)*

We do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St.Mark  *(****Mk 2. 13-22***)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples – for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’ Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, ‘Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 4**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 29 MAY AND 4 JUNE**

[if after Trinity Sunday]

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 3. 1–10, (11–20))*

The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

[ 11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.’ As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 139. 1-5, 12-17**

***REFRAIN* Where, Lord, can I flee from your presence?**

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places

and are acquainted with all my ways. ***Refrain***

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain to it. ***Refrain***

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvellously made;

your works are wonderful and I know it well. ***Refrain***

14 My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret

and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;

all of them were written in your book;

they were fashioned day by day,

when as yet there was none of them. ***Refrain***

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them,

they would be more in number than the sand;

to count them all,

my life span would need to be like yours. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy** *(Deut 5. 12–15)*

The Lord says this: Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 81. 1-10

***REFRAIN* Sing with joy to God our strength.**

1 Sing with joy to God our strength

and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

2 Raise a song and sound the timbrel,

the merry harp and the lyre.

3 Blow the ram’s-horn at the new moon,

and at the full moon, the day of our feast. ***Refrain***

4 For this is a statute for Israel,

a law of the God of Jacob.

5 He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph,

when he came out of the land of Egypt. ***Refrain***

6 I heard an unfamiliar voice saying,

‘I eased his shoulder from the burden;

his hands were set free from bearing the load.’

7 You called on me in trouble and I saved you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder

and tested you at the waters of Meribah. ***Refrain***

8 Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

9 There shall be no strange god among you;

you shall not worship a foreign god.

10 I am the Lord your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,

‘Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.’ ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 4. 5–12)*

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*(Mk 2. 23 – 3.6)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’ And he said to them, ‘Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.’ Then he said to them, ‘The sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.’ Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come forward.’ Then he said to the Pharisees, ‘Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus, how to destroy him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 5**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 5 AND 11 JUNE**

[if after Trinity Sunday]

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 8.4–11, (12–15), 16–20; (11.14–15))*

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, ‘You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.’ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to govern us.’ Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only – you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.’ So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, ‘These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

[ 12 He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ]

He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.’ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, ‘No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.’

[ 14 Samuel said to the people, ‘Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.’ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well- being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly. ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 138**

***REFRAIN* When I called, O Lord, you answered me.**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down towards your holy temple

and praise your name,

because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your name

and your word above all things. ***Refrain***

4 When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord,

when they have heard the words of your mouth. ***Refrain***

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord,

that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly;

he perceives the haughty from afar. ***Refrain***

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand

against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me;

O Lord, your love endures for ever;

do not abandon the works of your hands. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Genesis 3.8–15)*

The man and the woman heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 130

***REFRAIN* With the Lord there is mercy**

# and plenteous redemption.

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice;

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you;

therefore you shall be feared. ***Refrain***

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night-watch for the morning,

more than the night-watch for the morning. ***Refrain***

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor. 4.13 – 5.1)*

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – ‘I believed, and so I spoke’ – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 3. 20-35*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’ – for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 6**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 12 AND 18 JUNE**

[if after Trinity Sunday]

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam. 15. 34 – 16. 13)*

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me. ’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 20**

***REFRAIN* We will call upon the name of the Lord our God.**

1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble,

the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

2 Send you help from his holy place

and strengthen you out of Zion; ***Refrain***

3 Remember all your offerings

and accept your burnt sacrifice;

4 Grant you your heart’s desire

and prosper all your plans. ***Refrain***

5 We will shout for joy at your victory

and triumph in the name of our God;

may the Lord grant all your requests.

6 Now I know that the Lord gives victory

to his anointed;

he will answer him out of his holy heaven,

with the victorious strength of his right hand. ***Refrain***

7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,

but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

8 They collapse and fall down,

but we will arise and stand upright.

9 O Lord, give victory to the king

and answer us when we call. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ez. 17. 22-24)*

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 92. 1-4, 11-14

***REFRAIN* It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord.**

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,

and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning

and of your faithfulness in the night season; ***Refrain***

3 On the psaltery and on the lyre

and to the melody of the harp.

4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;

and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. ***Refrain***

11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,

and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

12 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord

shall flourish in the courts of our God; ***Refrain***

13 They shall still bear fruit in old age;

they shall be green and succulent;

14 That they may show how upright the Lord is,

my rock, in whom there is no fault. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*(2Cor. 5. 6-10, (11-13), 14-17)*

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [ 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St.Mark  *(****Mk 4. 26-34***)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’ Jesus also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 7**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 19 AND 25 JUNE**

[if after Trinity Sunday]

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

There are alternative ‘continuous track’ first readings for this week:

***EITHER:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 17.(1a, 4–11, 19–23), 32–49)*

[ The Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam, and his spear’s head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, ‘Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.’ And the Philistine said, ‘Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.’ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. Now Saul, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left someone in charge of the sheep, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. ] David said to Saul, ‘Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.’ Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.’ But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.’ David said, ‘The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.’ So Saul said to David, ‘Go, and may the Lord be with you!’ Saul clothed David with his armour; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul’s sword over the armour, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, ‘I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.’ So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, ‘Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.’ But David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.’ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 9.9–20**

***REFRAIN* Let the ungodly know they are but mortal**.

9 The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed,

a refuge in time of trouble.

10 Those who know your name will put their trust in you,

for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

11 Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion;

proclaim to the peoples the things he has done. ***Refrain***

12 The avenger of blood will remember them;

he will not forget the cry of the afflicted.

13 Have pity on me, O Lord;

see the misery I suffer from those who hate me,

O you who lift me up from the gate of death;

14 So that I may tell of all your praises

and rejoice in your salvation

in the gates of the city of Zion. ***Refrain***

15 The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug,

and in the snare they set is their own foot caught.

16 The Lord is known by his acts of justice;

the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.

17 The wicked shall be given over to the grave,

and also all the peoples that forget God. ***Refrain***

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten,

and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.

19 Rise up, O Lord,

let not the ungodly have the upper hand;

let them be judged before you.

20 Put fear upon them, O Lord;

let the ungodly know they are but mortal. ***Refrain***

***OR:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 17. 57 – 18. 5, 10–16)*

On David’s return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, ‘Whose son are you, young man?’ And David answered, ‘I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.’ David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, ‘I will pin David to the wall.’ But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 133**

***REFRAIN* The Lord has ordained the blessing:**

**life for evermore.**

1 O how good and pleasant it is,

when a family lives together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head

that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron,

and runs down upon the collar of his robe. ***Refrain***

4 It is like the dew of Hermon

that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:

life for evermore. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Job** *(Job 38 .1–11)*

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? – when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 107. 1-3, 23-32

***REFRAIN* Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,**

**and his mercy endures for ever.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim

that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands;

from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south. ***Refrain***

23 Some went down to the sea in ships

and plied their trade in deep waters;

24 They beheld the works of the Lord

and his wonders in the deep.

25 Then he spoke and a stormy wind arose,

which tossed high the waves of the sea. ***Refrain***

26 They mounted up to the heavens

and fell back to the depths;

their hearts melted because of their peril.

27 They reeled and staggered like drunkards

and were at their wits’ end.

28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress. ***Refrain***

29 He stilled the storm to a whisper

and quieted the waves of the sea.

30 Then were they glad because of the calm,

and he brought them

to the harbour they were bound for. ***Refrain***

31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy

and the wonders he does for his children.

32 Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people

and praise him in the council of the elders. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 6. 1–13)*

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return – I speak as to children – open wide your hearts also.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 4. 35–41*)

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 8**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 26 JUNE AND 2 JULY**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus has power over life and death. Our faith in him leads us to healing and new life. It conquers the fear of death.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 1. 1, 17–27)*

After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 130**

***REFRAIN* Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul.**

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice;

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand? ***Refrain***

3 For there is forgiveness with you;

therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night-watch for the morning,

more than the night-watch for the morning. ***Refrain***

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

*The Canticle (*[*Lamentations 3.22–33*](#Lamentations3_22)*) may be used in place of Wisdom 1.13–15; 2.23–24 as the First Reading.*

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** *(Wis 1. 13–15; 2. 23–24)*

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal, for God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil’s envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### CANTICLE OR PSALM

***either***

#### Lamentations 3.22–33

***REFRAIN* The Lord is good to those who wait for him.**

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end.

23 They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness. ***Refrain***

24 ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,

‘therefore I will hope in him.’

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul that seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. ***Refrain***

27 It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,

28 to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,

29 to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),

30 to give one’s cheek to the smiter,

and be filled with insults. ***Refrain***

31 For the Lord will not reject for ever.

32 Although he causes grief,

he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

33 for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone. ***Refrain***

***or***

#### Psalm 30

***REFRAIN* To you, O Lord, my heart shall sing without ceasing.**

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,

because you have lifted me up

and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you,

and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;

you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. ***Refrain***

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;

give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,

his favour for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night,

but joy comes in the morning. ***Refrain***

7 While I felt secure, I said,

‘I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favour,

made me as strong as the mountains.’

8 Then you hid your face,

and I was filled with fear. ***Refrain***

9 I cried to you, O Lord;

I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 ‘What profit is there in my blood,

if I go down to the Pit?

will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;

O Lord, be my helper.’ ***Refrain***

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy;

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 8. 7–15)*

You excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something – now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, ‘The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 5. 21–43)*

#### All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, ‘My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.’ So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, ‘If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.’ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ And his disciples said to him, ‘You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, “Who touched me?”’ He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.’ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?’ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum,’ which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**ST PETER YEARS A B C**

**29 June**

*Acts 12.1–11 must be read as either the First or the Second Reading.*

*See also St Peter and St Paul, pages 1102–1106.*

***Invitation to Confession***

The saints were faithful unto death and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever. As we celebrate their joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

who inspired your apostle Saint Peter

to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:

build up your Church upon this rock,

that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth

and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

#### Amen

***or in continuous form:***

Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God: build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ezekiel 3.22–27)*

The hand of the Lord was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD’; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

***or***

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 12.1–11)*

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, ‘Get up quickly.’ And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, ‘Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.’ He did so. Then he said to him, ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.’ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel’s help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, ‘Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

**Psalm 125**

***REFRAIN* Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good**

# [and to those who are true of heart].

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem;

so does the Lord stand round about his people,

from this time forth for evermore. ***Refrain***

3 The sceptre of the wicked shall not hold sway

over the land allotted to the just,

so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

4 Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good

and to those who are true of heart.

5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,

the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers;

but peace be upon Israel. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(Alternative readings)***

***either* Acts 12.1–11**

*See above*

***or***

**A reading from the first letter of Peter** *(1 Pet. 2.19–25)*

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL**

Priest: I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew *(Matt 16.13–19)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to you, O Christ

***Introduction to the Peace***

May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks that your glory is revealed in St Peter and all the saints. In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ. In their holiness we find encouragement and hope. In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. We rejoice in the glorious splendour of your majesty for you have given us a share with St Peter in the inheritance of the saints in light. In the darkness of this passing age they proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights in the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards the city of eternal light where they sing the everlasting song of triumph. In communion with angels and archangels and all who have served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and saying:

***Post communion prayer***

Almighty God,

who on the day of Pentecost

sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles

with the wind from heaven and the in tongues of flame,

filling them with boldness to preach the gospel:

by the power of the same Spirit

strengthen us to witness to your truth

and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Amen

***or***

Lord God, the source of truth and love,

keep us faithful to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,

united in prayer and the breaking of bread,

and one in joy and simplicity of heart,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Amen

***Blessing***

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing …

**ST THOMAS YEARS A B C**

**3 July**

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk *(Hab. 2. 1-4)*

I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

**Psalm 31. 1-6**

***REFRAIN* The Lord has done great things indeed,**

# [whereof we rejoice and sing].

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me;

make haste to deliver me. ***Refrain***

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net

that they have secretly set for me,

for you are my tower of strength. ***Refrain***

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me,

O Lord, O God of truth.

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols,

and I put my trust in the Lord. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph. 2. 19-22)*

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *Jn. 20. 24-29)*

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

**PROPER 9**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 3 AND 9 JULY**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*In our worship today we are invited to renew our faith. We are called to open our hearts and minds once more to the word of God. Jesus continues to proclaim the Kingdom whether the message is welcome or not*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 5. 1–5, 9–10)*

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, ‘Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.’ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 48**

***REFRAIN* In the city of our God is his holy hill.**

1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;

in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth,

is the hill of Zion,

the very centre of the world

and the city of the great king.

3 God is in her citadels;

he is known to be her sure refuge. ***Refrain***

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled

and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded;

they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there;

they writhed like a woman in childbirth,

like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them. ***Refrain***

7 As we have heard, so have we seen,

in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God;

God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence

on your loving-kindness, O God,

in the midst of your temple. ***Refrain***

9 Your praise, like your name, O God,

reaches to the world’s end;

your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad

and the cities of Judah rejoice,

because of your judgements. ***Refrain***

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her;

count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds;

that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever;

he shall be our guide for evermore. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ez. 2. 1–5)*

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 123

***REFRAIN* Our eyes look to the Lord our God,**

**until he shows us his mercy.**

1 To you I lift up my eyes,

to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God,

until he show us his mercy. ***Refrain***

4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,

for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,

and of the derision of the proud. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 12. 2–10)*

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows – was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 6. 1–13)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, ‘Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***Alternative Blessing:***

May the Lord show you mercy.

May the Lord grant you peace.

May the Lord bring you joy.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen**

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**ST PETER [YEARS A B C] 29 June**

See file: Readings for Saint’s Days A,B,C

**PROPER 10**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 10 AND 16 JULY**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Today's readings speak of the privilege and responsibility involved in being a child of God. We rejoice to be called God's sons and daughters and he invites us to make his love known to all the world. But the voice of the prophet is not always welcome.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

First Reading 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David, king of Judah, now acknowledged in Israel. There is great rejoicing as he dances before the ark as it is brought to Jerusalem.

*or* Amos 7:7-15

Amos did not choose to speak in God's name: it is God who chooses and sends those to whom he entrusts his word.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

God's plan is for all creation to come to fulfilment in Christ. He freely chooses us to play our part in this plan.

Gospel Mark 6:14-29

We hear how Herod the King traps himself with his foolish promise and the price is the head of John the Baptist. But the word of the Lord lasts for ever

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 6. 1–5, 12b–19)*

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 24**

***REFRAIN* The King of glory shall come in.**

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

the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas

and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. ***Refrain***

3 ‘Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?

and who can stand in his holy place?’

4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,

who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,

nor sworn by what is a fraud. ***Refrain***

5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord

and a just reward from the God of their salvation.’

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. ***Refrain***

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

8 ‘Who is this King of glory?’

‘The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord, mighty in battle.’ ***Refrain***

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

10 ‘Who is he, this King of glory?’

‘The Lord of hosts,

he is the King of glory.’ ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Amos** *(Amos 7. 7–15)*

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the Lord said, ‘See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.’ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, ‘Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.”’ And Amaziah said to Amos, ‘O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.’ Then Amos answered Amaziah, ‘I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, “Go, prophesy to my people Israel.”’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 85. 8-13

***REFRAIN* Show us your mercy, O Lord,**

**and grant us your salvation.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,

for he is speaking peace to his faithful people

and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land. ***Refrain***

10 Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth,

and righteousness shall look down from heaven. ***Refrain***

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him,

and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 1. 3–14)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 6. 14–29)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, ‘John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.’ But others said, ‘It is Elijah.’ And others said, ‘It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.’ But when Herod heard of it, he said, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.’ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.’ And he solemnly swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.’ She went out and said to her mother, ‘What should I ask for?’ She replied, ‘The head of John the Baptist.’ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.’ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 11**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 17 AND 23 JULY**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus came to reconcile all God's children to one another and to God. In him is the fullness of life and he longs to share it with others. Where there is need felt he responds to it. We are called, in him, to help break down the barriers that divide us.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| Be thou may guardian | gr | 2o | 385 | 2009 |  |  |
| Christ is made the sure foundation | ga | e | 208ii |  |  |  |
| Christ is our cornerstone | ga | e | 395 | 2009 |  |  |
| Dear Lord and Father of mankind | of | g | 411 |  |  |  |
| He wants not friends that hath thy love |  | e | 459 |  |  |  |
| Immortal love for ever full | of | g | 475 | 2009 |  |  |
| In Christ there is no east or west | gr | e | 477 | 2009 |  |  |
| Loving shepherd of thy sheep |  | 2o | 517 |  |  |  |
| Peace, perfect peace in this dark world |  | e | 553 |  |  |  |
| The Church’s one foundation | of | e | 585 |  |  |  |
| The God of Abraham praise | of | 2o | 586 |  |  |  |
| The king of love my shepherd is | of | 2o | 589 |  |  |  |
| The Lord my pasture shall prepare |  | 2o | 593 |  |  |  |
| The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want | gr | 2o | 594 |  |  |  |
| Thy kingdom come, O God |  | 2o | 607 |  |  |  |
| To God be the glory | of | e | 609 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| When I needed a neighbour |  |  | AMNS 433 | 2009 |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

The prophecy of Nathan to David: the Lord will build him a House, a dynasty, that will last for ever.

*or* Jeremiah 23:1-6

Punishment is promised for shepherds who neglect their flocks. God will gather the scattered sheep into the care of the good shepherd.

Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22

Christ has reconciled the old with the new, overcoming the hostility which the rules and decrees of the Law had aroused.

Gospel Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Christ's concern for his own disciples urged them to rest. But the greater need of his flock had also to be met – he took pity on them. And he cured those who were sick.

***RSCM comment (2009)***

Whatever ‘work’ you do – paid, voluntary, domestic, academic – there are good days and there are bad days. Sometimes, progress is easy; at other times, it’s really like wading through treacle. Which are the days that really matter? Anyone can work well when it feels easy. The secret of success is coping when with the bad days. Remember this: one of Jesus’ greatest miracles came when ‘many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.’

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 7. 1–14a)*

When David was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 89.20–37**

***REFRAIN* I will make David my firstborn**

**[and higher than the kings of the earth].**

20 ‘I have found David my servant;

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him,

nor the wicked bring him down.  ***Refrain***

23 I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him,

and he shall be victorious through my name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend

from the Great Sea to the River.  ***Refrain***

26 He will say to me, “You are my Father,

my God and the rock of my salvation.”

27 I will make him my first-born

and higher than the kings of the earth.

28 I will keep my love for him for ever,

and my covenant will stand firm for him.  ***Refrain***

29 I will establish his line for ever

and his throne as the days of heaven.

30 If his children forsake my law

and do not walk according to my judgements;  ***Refrain***

31 If they break my statutes

and do not keep my commandments;

32 I will punish their transgressions with a rod

and their iniquities with the lash;

33 But I will not take my love from him,

nor let my faithfulness prove false.  ***Refrain***

34 I will not break my covenant,

nor change what has gone out of my lips.

35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness:

“I will not lie to David.  ***Refrain***

36 His line shall endure for ever

and his throne as the sun before me;

37 It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon,

the abiding witness in the sky.”’  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah** *(Jer 23. 1–6)*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 23

***REFRAIN* The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not be in want.**

1 The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.  ***Refrain***

3 He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  ***Refrain***

5 You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 2. 11–22)*

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’ – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*(Mk 6. 30–34, 53–56)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 12**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 24 AND 30 JULY**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*In today's Gospel reading, Jesus shows us how we can begin to address the great issues of life. Even the most difficult problems can be overcome with faith, gentleness and patience. Here he invites us to imitate his generosity, and witness to his love.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| All for Jesus | ga | e | 277 |  |  |  |
| Bread of heaven, on thee we feed |  | g | 284 |  |  |  |
| Break thou/now the bread of life |  | g | 286 |  |  |  |
| Come down, O love divine |  | e | 175 |  |  |  |
| Creator of the earth and skies |  | 1o | 410 |  |  |  |
| Eternal Father, strong to save |  | g | 413 |  |  |  |
| For the fruits of his creation |  | g | 254 |  |  |  |
| Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost | gr | e | 182 | 2009 |  |  |
| Guide me O thou great Redeemer | pc | g | 455 | 2009 |  |  |
| Happy are they, they who love God |  | e | 456 | 2009 |  |  |
| Here in Christ we gather (God is love) | pc | e | 441 |  |  |  |
| Just as I am, without one plea | of | e | 308 |  |  |  |
| Not far beyond the sea, nor high |  | e | 528 |  |  |  |
| O love divine, how sweet thou art! |  | e | 541 |  |  |  |
| Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer |  | 2o | 272 | 2009 |  |  |
| The King of love my shepherd is | gr | e | 589 |  |  |  |
| To God be the glory |  | e | 609 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All creatures of our God and King | ga |  | 250 | 2009 |  |  |
| Great God, your love has called us here | of |  | 133 | 2009 |  |  |
| Bread and fishes (As I went a walking) | pc |  |  | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** 2 Samuel 11:1-15

We hear of the sin of King David. He sees the beautiful Bathsheba and first sets out to deceive her husband. When this fails David plans his death.

***or*** 2 Kings 4:42-44

Elisha's complete trust in the Lord provides bread for a hungry people.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21

The beautiful prayer of Paul for his people is that they may be filled with wonders of the love of God. To whom be glory always.

Gospel John 6:1-21

Today we hear about the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus reveals the depth of his love and care for his followers.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 11. 1–15)*

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, ‘This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.’ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, ‘I am pregnant.’ So David sent word to Joab, ‘Send me Uriah the Hittite.’ And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, ‘Go down to your house, and wash your feet.’ Uriah went out of the king’s house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, ‘Uriah did not go down to his house,’ David said to Uriah, ‘You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?’ Uriah said to David, ‘The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.’ Then David said to Uriah, ‘Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.’ So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, ‘Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 14**

***REFRAIN* Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers**

**[who eat up my people like bread]?**

1 The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;

there is none who does any good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all,

to see if there is any who is wise,

if there is one who seeks after God.  ***Refrain***

3 Everyone has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad;

there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers

who eat up my people like bread

and do not call upon the Lord?  ***Refrain***

5 See how they tremble with fear,

because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,

but the Lord is their refuge.

7 O that Israel’s deliverance would come out of Zion!

when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,

Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Kings** *(2 Kings 4. 42–44)*

A man came bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat.’ But his servant said, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people?’ So he repeated, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, “They shall eat and have some left.”’ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 145. 10-19

***REFRAIN* You open wide your hand, O Lord,**

**and satisfy our needs.**

10 All your works praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful servants bless you.  ***Refrain***

11 They make known the glory of your kingdom

and speak of your power;

12 That the peoples may know of your power

and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.  ***Refrain***

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;

your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The Lord is faithful in all his words

and merciful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall;

he lifts up those who are bowed down.  ***Refrain***

16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,

and you give them their food in due season.

17 You open wide your hand

and satisfy the needs of every living creature.  ***Refrain***

18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways

and loving in all his works.

19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him,

to all who call upon him faithfully.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 3. 14–21)*

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John*(Jn 6. 1–21)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Jesus, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.’ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

#### THE TRANSFIGURATION [Years A, B, C]

6th August

see: [Readings for Saints Days ABC](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Word\Readings%20for%20Saints%20Days%20ABC.doc#Transfiguration)

**PROPER 13**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 31 JULY AND 6 AUGUST**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*God hears the longings of our hearts. He offers us spiritual graces and maturity. He feeds us with food for our pilgrimage and nourishes us in word and sacrament. Let us come before him with gratitude for his constant love and attention.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| Bread of the world, in mercy broken |  | g | 285 |  |  |  |
| Broken for me | cm | g | 287 |  |  |  |
| Christ is the heavenly food |  | g | 288 |  |  |  |
| Christ is the King! O friends rejoice |  | e | 165 | 2009 |  |  |
| Come, risen Lord, and deign to be |  | g | 293 |  |  |  |
| Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness |  | g | 295 |  |  |  |
| Draw near and take the body of the Lord | cm | g | 296 |  |  |  |
| Father, Lord of all creation | pc | e | 418 |  |  |  |
| From glory to glory advancing | pc | g | 299 |  |  |  |
| Guide me, O thou great Redeemer | pc | 2o | 455 |  |  |  |
| I hunger and I thirst |  | 2o | 306 |  |  |  |
| In Christ there is no east nor west |  | e | 477 |  |  |  |
| Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts |  | g | 486 |  |  |  |
| Let all mortal flesh keep silence | of | g | 309 | 2009 |  |  |
| Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour | of | g | 311 |  |  |  |
| Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us | pc | g | 505 | 2009 |  |  |
| Now is eternal life | pc | g | 152 | 2009 |  |  |
| O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray | of | g | 318 |  |  |  |
| Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking |  | 1o | 321 |  |  |  |
| The Church’s one foundation | of | e | 585 |  |  |  |
| Through the night of doubt and sorrow |  | e | 605 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace | gr |  | 188 | 2009 |  |  |
| Now let us from this table rise | pc |  | 315 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings:***

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

We hear how the prophet cuts to the heart of the sin of David with a parable and David is drawn to profound repentance for his sin.

***or*** Exodus 16: 2-4. 9-15

The Israelites had forgotten their slavery in their hunger in the desert and grumbled at their plight. God proved his devotion to them even in their ingratitude by providing for their needs.

**Second Reading**: Ephesians 4: 1-16

Paul makes it clear that we have a part to play in salvation history. We are called to maturity as individuals and as a Church.

**Gospel**: John 6: 24-35

The work of God consists in believing in God and what he has done for his people. This means recognising Jesus for who he is and putting his word, his teaching, before all other considerations.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 11. 26 – 12. 13a)*

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, The Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, ‘There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.’ Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, ‘As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.’ Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.’ David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan said to David, ‘Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 51. 1-12**

***REFRAIN* I know my transgressions, O God**

**[and my sin is ever before me].**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your loving-kindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offences.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness

and cleanse me from my sin.  ***Refrain***

3 For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak

and upright in your judgement.  ***Refrain***

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

a sinner from my mother’s womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  ***Refrain***

8 Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure;

wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquities.  ***Refrain***

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence

and take not your holy Spirit from me.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex 16. 2–4, 9–15)*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.’ Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”’ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 78. 23-29

***REFRAIN* The Lord gave them grain from heaven.**

23 The Lord commanded the clouds above

and opened the doors of heaven.

24 He rained down manna upon them to eat

and gave them grain from heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels;

he provided for them food enough.  ***Refrain***

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens

And led out the south wind by his might.

27 He rained down flesh upon them like dust

and winged birds like the sand of the sea.  ***Refrain***

28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp

and round about their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled,

for he gave them what they craved.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**  *(Eph 4. 1–16)*

I, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, ‘When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.’ (When it says, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 6. 24–35)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were at the place where Jesus had given the bread, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 14**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 7 AND 13 AUGUST**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*In today's Gospel reading, Jesus reveals the saving power of the living bread. And so we gather together around the Eucharistic table to share the bread of life.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| Alleluia, sing to Jesus | of |  | 278 | 2009 |  |  |
| Author of life divine |  | g | 281 |  |  |  |
| God is love, let heaven adore him | of | g | 442 |  |  |  |
| Guide me O thou great Redeemer |  | g | 455 |  |  |  |
| Help us to help each other Lord | gr |  | 461 | 2009 |  |  |
| I come with joy | ga |  | 305 | 2009 |  |  |
| Jesus, Lord, we look to thee |  |  | 489 |  |  |  |
| Lead, kindly light |  |  | 495 |  |  |  |
| Let all mortal flesh keep silence | of |  | 309 |  |  |  |
| Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour | of/pc |  | 311 |  |  |  |
| Make me a channel of your peace | cm |  | 519 |  |  |  |
| May the mind of Christ our Saviour |  |  | 521 |  |  |  |
| My faith looks up to thee |  |  | 522 |  |  |  |
| O for a closer walk with God |  | e | 532 |  |  |  |
| O Jesus, King most wonderful |  | e | 539 |  |  |  |
| Now my tongue, the mystery telling | cm | g | 316 |  |  |  |
| Pu thou thy trust in God |  | 2o | 562 |  |  |  |
| Soul of my saviour | ga/pc | g | 322 |  |  |  |
| Thee we adore | cm | g | 329 | 2009 |  |  |
| When a knight won his spurs |  | e | 616 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Praise my soul the King of heaven | ga |  | 555 |  |  |  |
| Forth in the peace of Christ we go | recess |  | 429 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

First Reading 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33

The love of King David for his son surpasses all fears and disappointments. He suffers and cries out at the terrible loss of his son.

*or* 1 Kings 19:4–8

Elisha, strengthened by the food of the angel, is given strength to reach Horeb.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:25–5:2

Here is something of the Christian's charter: we are called to imitate Christ: living in a spirit of friendship and forgiveness.

Gospel John 6:35, 41–51

Jesus speaks of himself as the bread of life: the Christian's food for the journey of faith.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 18. 5–9, 15, 31–33)*

The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, ‘Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.’ And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab’s armour-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, ‘Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.’ The king said to the Cushite, ‘Is it well with the young man Absalom?’ The Cushite answered, ‘May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.’ The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, ‘O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 130**

***REFRAIN* Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord**

**[Lord, hear my voice].**

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you;

therefore you shall be feared.  ***Refrain***

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night-watch for the morning,

more than the night-watch for the morning.  ***Refrain***

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of Kings***(1 Kings 19. 4–8)*

Elijah went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.’ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, ‘Get up and eat.’ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 34. 1-8

***REFRAIN* Turn from evil and do good.**

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 I will glory in the Lord;

let the humble hear and rejoice.  ***Refrain***

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me

and delivered me out of all my terror.  ***Refrain***

5 Look upon him and be radiant,

and let not your faces be ashamed.

6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me

and saved me from all my troubles.  ***Refrain***

7 The angel of the Lord

encompasses those who fear him,

and he will deliver them.

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are they who trust in him!  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 4. 25 – 5.2)*

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 6. 3 5, 41–51)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to the crowd, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’ They were saying, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, “I have come down from heaven”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 15**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 14 AND 20 AUGUST**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus promised that those who shared at his table, the foretaste of the ultimate feast, would also share in his life with God. We come to this Eucharist to be nourished by his Word and by his body and blood.*

It is through the mercy of God that we are invited to share the life of Christ at the Eucharist and are called to the banquet of eternal life.

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009\*** | **2012** | **2015** |
| Alleluia, sing to Jesus | of | e,g | 278 |  |  |  |
| Angel voices ever singing |  | e | 377 |  |  |  |
| Awake, awake, fling off the night |  | e | 334 |  |  |  |
| Awake my soul and with the sun | ga | e | 1 |  |  |  |
| Be known to us in breaking bread |  | g | 282 |  |  |  |
| Be thou my guardian and my guide |  | e | 385 |  |  |  |
| Be thou my vision |  | 1o,e | 386 |  |  |  |
| Christian people, raise your song |  | e,g | 289 |  |  |  |
| Come ye faithful, raise the anthem |  | g | 409 |  |  |  |
| Draw near and take the body |  | g | 296 |  |  |  |
| Faithful Shepherd feed me | cm | g | AMR 415 |  |  |  |
| Father, we thank thee who hast planted |  | g | 298 |  |  |  |
| For the music of creation |  | e | 36 |  |  |  |
| Glory, love, and praise, and honour |  | e | 436 |  |  |  |
| God is here! As we his people | ga/of |  | 301 |  |  |  |
| In Christ there is no east or west | gr | e | 477 |  |  |  |
| Let all the world in every corner sing | pc | e | 497 |  |  |  |
| Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour | of | g | 311 |  |  |  |
| My God, and is thy table spread |  | 2o,g | 313 |  |  |  |
| Now is eternal life |  | g | 152 |  |  |  |
| Now let us from this table rise | pc | g | 315 |  |  |  |
| Now my tongue the mystery telling |  | g | 316 |  |  |  |
| Songs of praise the angels sang |  | g | 574 |  |  |  |
| We come to this your table, Lord |  | g | 330 |  |  |  |
| When, in our music, God is glorified |  | e | 618 |  |  |  |
| When morning gilds the skies | ga | e | 619 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* Did the Feast of the BVM in 2009

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

King David is dead and his son Solomon begins a reign of glory. He prays for wisdom and wisdom is given to him.

***or*** Proverbs 9:1-16

Wisdom is God who prepares a fine banquet for all people and who calls to his creation, wise and simple, to come and enjoy the presence of the Holy One and all his gifts.

**Second reading**: Ephesians 5:15-20

Cultivate your wisdom. Do not waste time on base human habits but be cheerful, joyful and thankful to God. Then the Spirit lives within you.

**Gospel**: John 6:51-58

Accepting Christ's invitation and being united with him is to find the fullness of life and also unity with the Father for ever.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of Kings** *(1 Kings 2. 10–12; 3. 3–14)*

David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 111**

***REFRAIN* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

1 Alleluia!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord!

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendour,

and his righteousness endures for ever.  ***Refrain***

4 He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;

the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him;

he is ever mindful of his covenant.  ***Refrain***

6 He has shown his people the power of his works

in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.  ***Refrain***

9 He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever;

holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures for ever.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Proverbs** *(Prov 9. 1–6)*

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ‘You that are simple, turn in here!’ To those without sense she says, ‘Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 34. 9-14

***REFRAIN* The Lord is near to the broken hearted.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* The Lord ransoms the life of his servants.**

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger,

but those who seek the Lord

lack nothing that is good.  ***Refrain***

11 Come, children, and listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who among you loves life

and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?  ***Refrain***

13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking

and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good;

seek peace and pursue it.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 5. 15–20)*

Brothers and sisters,be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 6. 51–58)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to the crowd: ‘I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 16**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 21 AND 27 AUGUST**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Today we are offered a stark choice. Do we wish to leave Jesus or continue walking with him, even when his ways are challenging and difficult to understand? Dare we take a risk and live his adventure? It is our decision.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| Author of life divine |  | g | 281 |  |  |  |
| Christ is made the sure foundation |  | 1o | 208ii |  |  |  |
| From glory to glory advancing | pc | g | 299 | 2009 |  |  |
| God of grace and God of glory |  | e | 448 |  |  |  |
| How sweet the name of Jesus sounds |  | g | 467 | 2009 |  |  |
| I come with joy | ga | g | 305 |  |  |  |
| Jesus calls us o’er the tumult | gr | 2o | 323 |  |  |  |
| Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us | of | g | 505 |  |  |  |
| Now is eternal life | pc | g | 152 |  |  |  |
| O bread to pilgrims given |  | g | 317 |  |  |  |
| O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray | of | g | 318 |  |  |  |
| Oft in danger, oft in woe |  | e | 547 |  |  |  |
| Soldiers of Christ, arise | ga | e | 571 |  |  |  |
| Soul of my Saviour | ga | g | 322 |  |  |  |
| Stand up, stand up for Jesus |  | e | 578 | 2009 |  |  |
| The Son of God proclaim |  |  | 328 |  |  |  |
| We pray thee, heavenly Father | of | g | 331 | 2009 |  |  |
| When a knight won his spurs |  | e | 616 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All my hope on God is founded | ga |  | 368 | 2009 |  |  |
| May the grace of Christ our Saviour | gr |  | 520 | 2009 |  |  |
| There is a Redeemer |  |  | NHWS 261 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In Christ alone my hope is found |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11)22-30, 41-43

As Solomon dedicates the great Temple he calls upon God to remember his promise to his father David. The continuation of the people of Israel if they remain faithful and his presence with them forever.

***or*** Joshua 24:1-2,14-18

In remembering God's goodness towards them the whole people choose to serve God, turning away from false gods. The relationship between God and creation is one of mutual trust and love.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 6:10-20

The armour of God is the covenant made with creation throughout history. Our trust is in God's strength against the dark forces which draw us away from him.

**Gospel** John 6:56-69

God offers, we respond. The historical covenant is continually being reinforced. God sent Jesus who offered himself to us. Some were afraid and left but others believed and remained.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the first book of Kings** *(1 Kings 8. (1, 6, 10–11), 22–30, 41–43)*

[Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. ]

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, ‘O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there,” that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name – for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 84**

***REFRAIN* Happy are they who dwell in your house!**

***or***

***REFRAIN* Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer**

**[hearken, O God of Jacob].**

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  ***Refrain***

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest

where she may lay her young;

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God.  ***Refrain***

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.  ***Refrain***

5 Those who go through the desolate valley

will find it a place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

hearken, O God of Jacob.  ***Refrain***

8 Behold our defender, O God;

and look upon the face of your anointed.

9 For one day in your courts

is better than a thousand in my own room,

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.  ***Refrain***

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;

he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold

from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts,

happy are they who put their trust in you!  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Joshua** *(Josh 24. 1–2a, 14–18)*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 34. 15-22

***REFRAIN* I sought the Lord, and he answered me**

**[and delivered me out of all my terror].**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,

and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,

to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.  ***Refrain***

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them

and delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the broken hearted

and will save those whose spirits are crushed.  ***Refrain***

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,

but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

20 He will keep safe all his bones;

not one of them shall be broken.  ***Refrain***

21 Evil shall slay the wicked,

and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,

and none will be punished who trust in him.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians** *(Eph 6. 10–20)*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 6. 56–69)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to the crowd: ‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 17**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 28 AUGUST AND 3 SEPTEMBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Our* *readings today challenge us to respect the law of God without twisting it to suit ourselves. God's law is a gift to enhance our lives, bringing wisdom and protecting us against whatever might tempt us away from God. We are invited to be active in living out God's will.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading:** Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

When we are attentive to the voice of God speaking within us we hear the words of love telling of our beauty, how our love is sought and what faith God has in us to return his love.

***or*** Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

The wisdom which develops from following God's law proves the worth of a nation. Wisdom which onlookers feel compelled to applaud is the best inheritance for subsequent generations.

## Second Reading James 1: 17-27

The practice of true religion is in the actions which prove its words. Perseverance in the avoidance of temptation to evil and in the loving care for God's people we realise our vocation and receive its blessing.

## Gospel Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Jesus challenges the scribes and Pharisees about their outward observance of the Law since their lives do not reflect what they have learned and what God is expecting of them.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of the Song of Solomon** *(Song 2. 8–13)*

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 45. 1–2, 7–10**

***REFRAIN* Grace flows from your lips,**

**because God has blessed you for ever.**

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;

let me recite what I have fashioned for the king;

my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men;

grace flows from your lips,

because God has blessed you for ever.  ***Refrain***

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever,

a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom;

you love righteousness and hate iniquity;

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness above your fellows.  ***Refrain***

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia,

and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings’ daughters stand among the ladies of the court;

on your right is the queen,

adorned with the gold of Ophir.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy** *(Deut 4. 1–2, 6–9)*

Moses spoke to the people; he said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 15**

***REFRAIN* Those who do what is right**

**will dwell in the presence of the Lord.**

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,

who speaks the truth from his heart.  ***Refrain***

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend;

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour.

4 In his sight the wicked are rejected,

but he honours those who fear the Lord.  ***Refrain***

5 He has sworn to do no wrong

and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain,

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things

shall never be overthrown.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of James** *(Jas 1. 17–27)*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All: Glory to you O Lord** *(Mk 7. 1–8, 14–15, 21–23)*

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 18**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 4 AND 10 SEPTEMBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Among the signs of the Kingdom the deaf hear and the dumb speak. Let us use our hearing to listen to God's word and our voices to speak and sing his praise. And let us do this in unity with our sisters and brothers within our own and the wider community – regardless of ability, race or status.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23

The Lord's love and mercy are more important than status and riches. It is the degree of our justice and generosity, given to anyone who needs them, which God measures.

***or*** Isaiah 35:4-7

The presence of the Lord changes everything, even the inmost hearts of humankind. He gives strength and courage. Creates miracles in the natural world.

**Second Reading** James 2:1-10 (11-13),14-17

Making distinctions between people is against the law of God. He is not partial and neither should we be. All are chosen by virtue of God's creation and all are worthy to receive his gifts.

**Gospel** Mark 7:24-37

The characters in this Gospel teach us a lot about people's faith in Jesus. In turn, the Syro-Phoenician woman taught Jesus about his ministry to foreigners and outsiders.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Proverbs** *(Prov 22. 1–2, 8–9, 22–23)*

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 125**

***REFRAIN* Show your goodness, O Lord,**

**to those who are good.**

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem;

so does the Lord stand round about his people,

from this time forth for evermore. ***Refrain***

3 The sceptre of the wicked shall not hold sway

over the land allotted to the just,

so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

4 Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good

and to those who are true of heart. ***Refrain***

5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,

the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers;

but peace be upon Israel. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 35. 4–7a)*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 146

***REFRAIN* You open wide your hand, O Lord,**

**and satisfy our needs.**

1 Alleluia!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ***Refrain***

2 Put not your trust in rulers,

nor in any child of earth,

for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish. ***Refrain***

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob

for their help!

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas,

and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger. ***Refrain***

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked. ***Refrain***

9 The Lord shall reign for ever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the letter of James** *(Jas 2. 1–10, (11–13), 14–17)*

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please,’ while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there,’ or, ‘Sit at my feet,’ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [For the one who said, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘You shall not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 7. 24-37*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.’ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 19**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 11 AND 17 SEPTEMBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Today we hear Jesus foretelling his suffering and death. He gave us an example for living and dying that we might follow. Being his disciple may not be easy since his teaching clashes with the world's values. However, he promises us that our struggle will not be wasted.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Proverbs 1:20-33

God offers a life of security and without fear to those who listen to him. But when we turn our backs on the invitation to acquire wisdom we must be prepared to take the consequences.

***or*** Isaiah 50:4-9

The Prophet anticipates the suffering of the Messiah. All servants of the Lord experience harsh treatment when they fulfil their duty to God. But God will vindicate and save them.

**Second Reading** James 3:1-12

Great good, but also harm can be done with words. Those who claim to speak with authority must be above reproach.

**Gospel** Mark 8:27-38

Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah who will suffer and die for the world. When Peter remonstrates, Jesus describes the vocation of all who follow him. It involves sacrifice but with salvation as reward.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the book of Proverbs** *(Prov 1. 20–33)*

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ‘How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM OR CANTICLE

**Psalm 19**

***REFRAIN* The commandment of the Lord is clear**

**and gives light to the eyes.**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another,

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language,

and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands,

and their message to the ends of the world. ***Refrain***

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens

and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat. ***Refrain***

7 The law of the Lord is perfect

and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes. ***Refrain***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean

and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey,

than honey in the comb. ***Refrain***

11 By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offence. ***Refrain***

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. ***Refrain***

***or***

**Wisdom of Solomon 7.26 – 8.1**

***REFRAIN* God loves the person who lives with wisdom.**

26 Wisdom is a reflection of eternal light,

a spotless mirror of the working of God,

and an image of his goodness. ***Refrain***

27 Although she is but one, she can do all things,

and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

in every generation she passes into holy souls

and makes them friends of God, and prophets;

28 for God loves nothing so much

as the person who lives with wisdom. ***Refrain***

29 She is more beautiful than the sun,

and excels every constellation of the stars.

Compared with the light she is found to be superior,

30 for it is succeeded by the night,

but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

1 She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,

and she orders all things well.  ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 50. 4–9a)*

The servant of the Lord said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 116. 1-8

***REFRAIN* I will walk in the presence of the Lord**

**in the land of the living.**

1 I love the Lord,

because he has heard the voice of my supplication,

because he has inclined his ear to me

whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;

the grip of the grave took hold of me;

I came to grief and sorrow. ***Refrain***

3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:

‘O Lord, I pray you, save my life.’

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous;

our God is full of compassion. ***Refrain***

5 The Lord watches over the innocent;

I was brought very low and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul,

for the Lord has treated you well. ***Refrain***

7 For you have rescued my life from death,

my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord

in the land of the living. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of James** *(Jas 3. 1–12)*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 8. 27-38*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ Jesus asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 20**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 18 AND 24 SEPTEMBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*The tension between good and evil exists both in our hearts and in the world. Greed and ambition can deafen us to the words of Christ. However, he promises that the wisdom which creates virtue will be ours when we learn that the simplicity of childhood best mirrors the actions of Christ.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Proverbs 31:10-31

This poem of the virtuous wife underlines the importance of family in Israel and the value of one person's role within it. In God's Kingdom each has their place with different skills and virtues.

***or*** Wisdom 1:16–2:1,12-22

The godless, angry at being opposed and made to feel humbled and guilty, want to make the virtuous suffer. They mock in asking if God will save the good man.

**Second Reading** James 3:13–4:3,7-8

Good actions are born of wisdom from above and we can choose between virtue and the baser motives and actions which the world promotes.

**Gospel** Mark 9:30-37

Virtue in God's Kingdom is related to wisdom. It is the wise who hear and do God's will. Those who wish to be close to God and first must become as a servant, welcoming the lowly as did Christ.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Proverbs** *(Prov 31. 10–31)*

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 1**

***REFRAIN* Happy are they who delight in the law of the Lord.**

1 Happy are they who have not walked

in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners,

nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and night. ***Refrain***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,

bearing fruit in due season,

with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper. ***Refrain***

4 It is not so with the wicked:

they are like chaff which the wind blows away;

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright

when judgement comes,

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked is doomed. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** *(Wis 1. 16 – 2. 1, 12–22)*

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, ‘Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God’s child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.’ Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah** *(Jer 11. 18–20)*

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, ‘Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!’ But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 54

***REFRAIN* The Lord sustains my life.**

1 Save me, O God, by your name;

in your might, defend my cause.

2 Hear my prayer, O God;

give ear to the words of my mouth. ***Refrain***

3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,

and the ruthless have sought my life,

those who have no regard for God.

4 Behold, God is my helper;

it is the Lord who sustains my life. ***Refrain***

5 Render evil to those who spy on me;

in your faithfulness, destroy them.

6 I will offer you a freewill sacrifice

and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

7 For you have rescued me from every trouble,

and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of James** *(Jas 3. 13 – 4. 3, 7–8a)*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according toMark  *(Mk 9. 30-37*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING** [YEAR B]

*Green updated for 2005*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction:***  *In his infinite goodness, God has given us many good things. Today we thank him for his generosity, ask that we may use his gifts wisely and pray for those who do share in the earth’s bounty.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Confession***

Priest: Let us confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God’s creation.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in all your mercy:

All: forgive us and help us.

Priest: We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

All: forgive us and help us.

Priest: We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

All: forgive us and help us.

Priest: We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world your have made.

Father, in your mercy:

All: forgive us and help us.

Priest: We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

All: forgive us and help us.

*(Patterns for Worship p. 42)*

***Collect:***

Eternal God,

you crown the year with your goodness

and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:

grant that we may use them to your glory,

for the relief of those in need

and for our own well-being;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Harvest Thanksgiving*

***in continuous form:***

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Joel** *(Joel 2. 21–27)*

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 126**

***REFRAIN* Those who sowed with tears**

**will reap with songs of joy.**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***Refrain***

3 Then they said among the nations,

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

4 The Lord has done great things for us,

and we are glad indeed. ***Refrain***

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears

will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING *(alternative readings)***

***either***

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy** *(1 Tim 2. 1–7)*

My dearly beloved, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all – this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy** *(1 Tim 6. 6–10)*

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy** *(1 Tim 6. 6–10)*

[Paraphrase for children’s service]: If we try to live as God wants us to live, we will be happy. We brought nothing into the world and we can’t take anything out of it. Food and clothing are all we need. Those who try to be rich are often tempted to do the wrong thing which brings sadness and pain. The love of money can cause great harm and those who try to be rich often find themselves distracted from the truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: We do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  *(Mt 6. 25-33)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

***The Intercessions***

Priest: Let us pray

(All kneel)

Leader: Let us pray to God, the Lord of the Harvest, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation, saying:

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, when we lift up our eyes to perceive with Christ’s eyes, we see that the fields of the world are already white for harvest. We pray for your Church, that it may be spiritually equipped to reap the harvest of souls.

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, the harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few, but you make your Church fruitful with many ministries. We pray for our parish, that we may grasp the opportunities of the present time.

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, you have created the universe by your eternal Word, and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth. We pray for your world, that we may share and conserve its resources, and live in reverence for the creation and in harmony with one another.

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, whose Son has promised that the Spirit will lead us into all truth, we pray for the community in which you have set us, for one another and for ourselves, that we may bear the harvest of the Spirit in love and joy and peace.

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, though you have given the human race a rich land, a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley, vines and oil and honey, we have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow. We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction, that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.

Father, Lord of all creation

**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, your Christ, the first-fruits of the resurrection, will put in the sickle for the harvest for the dead at the end of time. We pray that we may rejoice with all who have died in the faith of Christ, as he brings safely home all whom you have given him and gathers us all to share together in the banquet of the age to come.

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers,**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*(Patterns p. 78-9)*

***Offertory Prayers for Harvest:***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

***and for Water Aid:***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this water to set before you,

which earth has given to sustain and purify your creation.

It will become for us a sign of your life-giving love.

All Blessed be God for ever.

***Post Communion prayer:***

Lord of the harvest,

with joy we have offered thanksgiving

for your love in creation

and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:

by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us

and make us generous and wise stewards

of the good things we enjoy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***The Blessing***

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children, that you may use them to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water, who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine, lead us, feed us, multiply us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator through all eternity; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***Ministry***

Almighty God, who for the salvation of the world gives to his people many gifts and ministries to the advancement of his glory, stir up in you the gifts of his grace, sustain each one of you in your own ministry; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***where water is the theme:***

God, who in his Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***NB Prayers etc on the theme of water may be found in ‘The Promise of his Glory’ around p232 (10)***

**PROPER 21**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 25 SEPTEMBER AND 1 OCTOBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*God's Spirit is at work among his people. Calling them into service, empowering them and inspiring them. Urging them to speak out for justice and what is right. The Spirit cannot be contained or ordered by human desire but speaks freely to all.*

***Hymns:***

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*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The Spirit of life speaks through the mouths of people whom God has chosen as his emissaries. However awesome their message or request, God gives them courage to do what must be done.

***or*** Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The Spirit is not confined to those that the world regards as worthy. God often chooses the least important, the least expected, speaking where he will.

**Second Reading** James 5:13-20

Embrace life to the full. Live it in all its beauty, filled with the richness of faith and forgiveness. Enjoy the fruits of earth. Praise God and care for one another and be assured of God's presence.

**Gospel** Mark 9:38-50

Anyone who is inspired by the Spirit will act for good and become a credit to heaven and earth, on the side of Jesus. Avoid the road to falsehood, protect the weak and embrace goodness at all times.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Esther** *(Esther 7. 1–6, 9–10; 9.20–22)*

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me – that is my petition – and the lives of my people – that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 124**

***REFRAIN* Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**[the maker of heaven and earth].**

1 If the Lord had not been on our side,

let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side,

when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive

in their fierce anger towards us; ***Refrain***

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us

and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters

have gone right over us.

6 Blessèd be the Lord!

he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. ***Refrain***

7 We have escaped like a bird

from the snare of the fowler;

the snare is broken and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Numbers** *(Num 11. 4–6, 10–16, 24–29)*

The rabble among the people had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.’ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, “Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,” to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, “Give us meat to eat!” I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once – if I have found favour in your sight – and do not let me see my misery.’ So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.’ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, ‘My lord Moses, stop them!’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 19. 7-14

***REFRAIN* The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect

and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes.  ***Refrain***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean

and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey,

than honey in the comb.  ***Refrain***

11 By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offence.  ***Refrain***

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.  ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of James** *(James 5.13–20)*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 9. 38-50*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After Jesus had finished teaching the disciples, John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 22**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 2 AND 8 OCTOBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*We were created by God, precious to him and to one another. Life is so often a lonely experience full of division and disharmony. Let us pray that in this Eucharist the Spirit of God will draw us closer to each other and to our loving God*

***Hymns:***

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*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Job 1:1;2:1-10

Job's fate seemed sealed by the action of Satan who sought to prove the fragility of human faithfulness towards God. But he had not reckoned with Job's unshakeable faith and complete integrity.

***or*** Genesis 2:18-24

The unified bond between men and women was destined by God from the beginning. A relationship of equals created from one flesh by God's hand.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12

We have one who is above the power of angels, made perfect by suffering to save us, our brother Jesus. And he draws us into relationship with the Living God.

**Gospel** Mark 10:2-16

The Pharisees seek to test Jesus on the question of divorce. Jesus responds with a sharp lesson in equality of rights, responsibilities and respect between people who pledge themselves to each other.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Job** *(Job 1. 1; 2. 1–10)*

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.’ Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.’ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.’ But he said to her, ‘You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 20**

***REFRAIN* I will live with integrity, O Lord;**

**[redeem me and have pity on me].**

1 Give judgement for me, O Lord,

for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 Test me, O Lord, and try me;

examine my heart and my mind. ***Refrain***

3 For your love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

4 I have not sat with the worthless,

nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked. ***Refrain***

6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,

that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds. ***Refrain***

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell

and the place where your glory abides.

9 Do not sweep me away with sinners,

nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

10 Whose hands are full of evil plots,

and their right hand full of bribes. ***Refrain***

11 As for me, I will live with integrity;

redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me.

12 My foot stands on level ground;

in the full assembly I will bless the Lord. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 2. 18–24)*

The Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 8

#### *REFRAIN* How exalted is your name in all the world!

1 O Lord our governor,

how exalted is your name in all the world!

2 Out of the mouths of infants and children

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,

to quell the enemy and the avenger. ***Refrain***

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them?

mere human beings, that you should seek them out? ***Refrain***

6 You have made them little lower than the angels;

you adorn them with glory and honour.

7 You give them mastery over the works of your hands;

and put all things under their feet, ***Refrain***

8 All sheep and oxen,

even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,

and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our governor,

how exalted is your name in all the world! ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 1. 1–4; 2. 5–12)*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, ‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.’ Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 10.2-16*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. Jesus said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 23**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 9 AND 15 OCTOBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Jesus looks on us all with love, a deeper and richer love than we could ever imagine. He asks us to follow him with commitment and zeal for the Father and his Kingdom. Today let us look at our lives afresh, and see how we can enliven our dedication to God.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Job 23:1-9,16-17

Job is searching for God as we do when in distress. For a man of such faith he does not doubt that God is there somewhere but seeks to remove the veil between them.

***or*** Amos 5:6-7,10-15

The exhortations of Amos are as true today as then. He warns the rich against exploiting the poor; this is not God's way nor God's will. God is with those who judge rightly and seek the good of all.

**Second reading** Hebrews 4:12-16

The Word of God is so sharp that it can pierce the space between any argument, there is no escape from its incisiveness. It can see through the barriers we construct against it.

**Gospel** Mark 10:17-31

When Jesus looks on the young man with love he sees the turmoil in his heart. He understands the sacrifices we make of plans and ambitions. But in losing, we gain.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Job** *(Job 23. 1–9, 16–17)*

Job answered his companions: ‘Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted for ever by my judge. If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 22. 1-15**

#### *REFRAIN* Why are you so far from the words of my distress?

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

and are so far from my cry

and from the words of my distress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime,

but you do not answer;

by night as well, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are the Holy One,

enthroned upon the praises of Israel. ***Refrain***

4 Our forebears put their trust in you;

they trusted and you delivered them.

5 They cried out to you and were delivered;

they trusted in you and were not put to shame. ***Refrain***

6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man,

scorned by all and despised by the people.

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn;

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8 ‘He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;

let him rescue him, if he delights in him.’ ***Refrain***

9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,

and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;

you were my God

when I was still in my mother’s womb. ***Refrain***

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.

12 Many young bulls encircle me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

13 They open wide their jaws at me,

like a ravening and a roaring lion. ***Refrain***

14 I am poured out like water;

all my bones are out of joint;

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;

my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

and you have laid me in the dust of the grave. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Amos** *(Amos 5. 6–7, 10–15)*

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 90. 13-17

#### *REFRAIN* We shall rejoice and be glad

**all the days of our life.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* O Lord, be gracious to your servants.**

13 Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?

be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. ***Refrain***

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days

that you afflicted us

and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works

and your splendour to their children. ***Refrain***

17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;

prosper the work of our hands;

prosper our handiwork. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 4. 12–16)*

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(Mk 10. 17-31*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter 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 the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’ Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields – but with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 24**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 16 AND 22 OCTOBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*We are reminded that Christ had given a value and meaning to suffering which the world would not fully understand. To follow Christ is to come to understand that happiness is not necessarily the Christian vocation. But service is. It is in acceptance of whatever crosses we are obliged to carry that we will find our salvation.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

There are things about God which we must learn if the true extent of his power and majesty are to be understood. When we understand then faith becomes simple before the glory of what our eyes see and what our minds can comprehend.

***or*** Isaiah 53:4-12

Isaiah shows us the other face of God. Not the mighty creator whose power outlines and controls every boundary of earth. But the broken servant whose life he counts as nothing before the needs of his people.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 5:1-10

God calls people to become his servant-priests whose weaknesses match those on whose behalf they serve. Jesus our great High Priest submitted himself to God and his offering became our salvation.

**Gospel** Mark 10:35-45

If we really share in the life of Christ we must also become servants of others. We do not need rank or status to justify us, only Christ's teaching and example.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING  *(short or long reading)***

**A reading from the book of Job** *Job 38. 1–7, (34–41)*

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? [Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, “Here we are”? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?’ ]

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

**Psalm 104. 1-9, 25, 37b**

***REFRAIN* At your rebuke, O Lord, the waters fled.**

**[They shall not again cover the earth.]**

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul;

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

you are clothed with majesty and splendour.

2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak

and spread out the heavens like a curtain. ***Refrain***

3 You lay the beams of your chambers

in the waters above;

you make the clouds your chariot;

you ride on the wings of the wind.

4 You make the winds your messengers

and flames of fire your servants. ***Refrain***

5 You have set the earth upon its foundations,

so that it never shall move at any time.

6 You covered it with the deep as with a mantle;

the waters stood higher than the mountains. ***Refrain***

7 At your rebuke they fled;

at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

8 They went up into the hills

and down to the valleys beneath,

to the places you had appointed for them. ***Refrain***

9 You set the limits that they should not pass;

they shall not again cover the earth.

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

in wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

37 Alleluia! ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 53. 4–12)*

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 91. 9-16

***REFRAIN* The Lord shall give his angels charge over you**

**[to keep you in all your ways].**

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,

and the Most High your habitation;

10 No evil shall happen to you,

neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. ***Refrain***

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you,

to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands,

lest you dash your foot against a stone. ***Refrain***

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder;

you shall trample the young lion and the serpent

under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,

therefore will I deliver him;

I will protect him, because he knows my name. ***Refrain***

15 He shall call upon me and I will answer him;

I am with him in trouble,

I will rescue him and bring him to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy him,

and show him my salvation. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 5. 1–10)*

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’; as he says also in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  *(****Mk 10. 35-45***)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’ And he said to them, ‘What is it you want me to do for you?’ And they said to him, ‘Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’ They replied, ‘We are able.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**PROPER 25**   **[YEAR B] SUNDAY BETWEEN 23 AND 30 OCTOBER**

*Green updated for 2006*

*Provision for Proper 25 is identical in the Revised Common Lectionary and the Church of England provision, but the Church of England adds alternative readings for* [*Bible Sunday*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\Application%20Data\Microsoft\Hymn\All%20M'sLiturgySheets%22%20l#BibleSunday)

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

***Introduction and call to worship***

*Today we hear the story of the blind beggar Bartimaeus. He who, even in blindness, recognised Jesus' power and named it publicly. The one who ran to Jesus and begged for his sight to be restored. So we pray for such steadfast faith and for new vision as we meet Jesus in this celebration.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Job 42:1-6,10-17

Job's persistent faith and his acknowledgement that God's ways are beyond human understanding are irresistible to God. Job has given everything he has and God lovingly allows Job to rediscover him.

***or*** Jeremiah 31:7-9

God encourages us to call upon him and when we do he answers and draws to himself all the peoples of the earth. He loves his creation and longs to guide us on the right path, consoling and healing us.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus welcomes all who approach God through him. He is the one bridge between heaven and earth. Perfect, and yet fully knowledgeable of the pressures of humanity. He knows us.

**Gospel** Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus would not be silenced. In spite of his blindness he knew his Lord and the power which emanated from Jesus. In giving everything his prayers were answered and his sight restored.

***Continuous OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Job** *(Job 42. 1–6, 10–17)*

Job answered the Lord: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. “Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. “Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.” I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’ And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 34.1–8, 19–22

***REFRAIN* I sought the Lord, and he answered me**

**[and delivered me out of all my terror].**

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 I will glory in the Lord;

let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

let us exalt his name together. ***Refrain***

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me

and delivered me out of all my terror.

5 Look upon him and be radiant,

and let not your faces be ashamed. ***Refrain***

6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me

and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord

encompasses those who fear him,

and he will deliver them. ***Refrain***

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are they who trust in him!

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,

but the Lord will deliver him out of them all. ***Refrain***

20 He will keep safe all his bones;

not one of them shall be broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked,

and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,

and none will be punished who trust in him. ***Refrain***

***Related OT track:***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah** *(Jer 31. 7–9)*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 126

***REFRAIN* The Lord has done great things for us**

**[and we are glad].**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***Refrain***

3 Then they said among the nations,

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

4 The Lord has done great things for us,

and we are glad indeed. ***Refrain***

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears

will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 7. 23–28)*

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 10. 46b–52)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

#### DEDICATION FESTIVAL [YEAR B]

**At St Andrew’s – the first Sunday in September**

otherwise, First Sunday in October or Last Sunday after Trinity

*“This is none other than the house of God: this is the very gate of heaven.”. Today we give thanks for the dedication of our church and re-dedicate ourselves to Christ’s service.*

***Hymns:***

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*a Reading from Acts*

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***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

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*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

[For Index to Collects after Trinity, click here](#Trinitycollects)

**FIRST READING**

***Either***

**A reading from the book of Genesis** *(Gen 28. 11–18)*

Jacob came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it!’ And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Or***

**A reading from the book of Revelation** *(Rev 21. 9–14)*

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 122

***REFRAIN* I was glad when they said to me,**

**‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’.**

1 I was glad when they said to me,

‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’

2 Now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***Refrain***

3 Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself.

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgement,

the thrones of the house of David. ***Refrain***

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

‘May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers. ***Refrain***

8 For my family and companions’ sake,

I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek to do you good.’ ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of Peter** *(1 Pet 2. 1–10)*

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,’ and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 10. 22–29)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

Jesus says, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. So let us turn away from sin and turn to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

to whose glory we celebrate the dedication

of this house of prayer:

we praise you for the many blessings

you have given to those who worship you here:

and we pray that all who seek you in this place

may find you,

and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,

may become a living temple acceptable to you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Dedication Festival*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you here: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ.

All: In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks for your blessing on this house of prayer, where through your grace we offer you the sacrifice of praise, and are built by your Spirit into a temple made without hands, even the body of your Son Jesus Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

none, except general

***Post communion prayer***

Father in heaven,

whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly place,

an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:

grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage

that, fed with the living bread of heaven,

and united in the body of your Son,

we may be the temple of your presence,

the place of your glory on earth,

and a sign of your peace in the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Father in heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly place, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem: grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven, and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

#### BIBLE SUNDAY [YEAR B]

***Hymns:***

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*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

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**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 55. 1–11)*

The Lord says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 19. 7–14

***REFRAIN* The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect

and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes. ***Refrain***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean

and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey,

than honey in the comb. ***Refrain***

11 By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offence. ***Refrain***

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to St Timothy** *(2 Tim 3. 14 – 4.5)*

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 5. 36–47)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the Jews: ‘I have a testimony greater than John’s. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***or***

**Invitation to confession (Patterns) p39 Word**

The word of God is living and active. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Blessed Lord,

who caused all holy scriptures

to be written for our learning:

help us so to hear them,

to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them

that, though patience, and comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast

the hope of everlasting life,

which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  *Last Trinity*

***or continuous form:***

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, though patience, and comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are the body of Christ.

All: In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

none, except general

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

none, except general

***Post communion prayer***

God of all grace,

your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry

with the bread of his life

and the word of his kingdom:

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness

sustain us by your true and living bread;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May the scales be lifted from our eyes, that we may truly see.

May the shadows be lifted from our hearts , that we may really love.

May the wisdom of God grow in our hearts,

that we may follow him forever.

And may almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

today and always. Amen.

**SUNDAYS BEFORE ADVENT**

*In the weeks after All Saints’ Day the Church of England provision designates Sundays ‘Sundays before*

#### *Advent’, while the Revised Common Lectionary continues with ‘Propers’ designated by calendar dates.*

#### SUNDAY BETWEEN 30 OCTOBER and 5 NOVEMBER [YEAR B]

**ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY YEAR B**

If this is not kept as All Saints’ Sunday, All Saint’s Day (B)

*Today's Bible readings speak to us of God's infinite power to renew and revitalise. In our worship let us lay ourselves open to his work of restoration.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Wisdom 3:1-9

The death of those we love may seem to be irremediable disaster. "But they are at peace". What we may see as punishment is in fact reward. "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God".

**Second Reading** Revelation 21:1-6

Death itself is an opportunity for renewal. "Death will be no more – See, I am making all things new."

**Gospel** John 11: 32-44

St John gives a dramatic account of bodily restoration at God's hand. Lazarus, four days dead and already disintegrating physically, emerges from the tomb restored to life.

***After the introit hymn***

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord. Let us keep the feast in honour of all God’s saints, in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God. May the joy and peace of heaven be with you

All: The Lord bless you

***Invitation to Confession***

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.

***or***

*Patterns p39 (saints)*

We run the race set before us, surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses. Therefore let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

you have knit together your elect

in one communion and fellowship

in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:

grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints

in all virtuous and godly living

that we may come to those inexpressible joys

that you have prepared for those who truly love you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(All Saints Sunday)*

***or in continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING *(alternative readings permitted)***

***either***

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** *(Wis 3. 1–9)*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 25. 6–9)*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 24.1–6

***REFRAIN* The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God**

# [no torment will ever touch them].

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

the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas

and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. ***Refrain***

3 ‘Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?

and who can stand in his holy place?’

4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,

who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,

nor sworn by what is a fraud. ***Refrain***

5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord

and a just reward from the God of their salvation.’

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the book of Revelation** *(Rev 21. 1–6a)*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 11. 32–44)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

We are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near. The peace of the Lord be always with you… **The Peace:** ASB p170

***or***

Those who serve the Lord in faith and love know the fullness of his peace. Let us share it with one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks for the glorious pledge of the hope of our calling which you have given us in your saints; that, following their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. ***[CW]***

***or***

And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. ***ASB p157 (22)***

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks, most gracious God,

surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses

and glorified in the assembly of your saints.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you.

In communion with angels and archangels,

and with all who served you on earth

and worship you now in heaven,

we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you *saying:*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E in continuous form***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks, most gracious God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and glorified in the assembly of your saints. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. We, your holy Church, acclaim you. In communion with angels and archangels, and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voice to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you *saying:*

***Post communion prayer***

God, the source of all holiness

and giver of all good things:

may we who have shared at this table

as strangers and pilgrims here on earth

be welcomed with all your saints

to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

God give you grace to share the inheritance of his saints in glory.

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. Amen.

***or***

The God of peace fill you with all joy and hope in believing; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen** ***ASB p160 (last on page)***

***or***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship and a share in their praises. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness and to come to the full radiance of glory. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**ALL SAINTS’ DAY** YEARS A B C

*For use on 1 November if the material for All Saints’ Sunday is used on the Sunday. See Year A, pages 419–422.*

From its earliest days, the Church has recognised as its foundation stones those heroes of the faith whose lives have excited others to holiness and have assumed a communion with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven.

*Celebrating the feast of All Saints' began in the fourth century. At first, it was observed on the Sunday after the feast of Pentecost; this was to link the disciples who received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the 'foundation of the Church, with those who were martyrs, giving their lives as witnesses for the faith. In the eighth century, a pope dedicated a chapel to All Saints in St Peter's at Rome on 1 November. Within a century, this day was observed in England and Ireland as All Saints' Day.*

*Today's Bible readings speak to us of God's infinite power to renew and revitalise. In our worship let us lay ourselves open to his work of restoration.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Wisdom 3:1-9

The death of those we love may seem to be irremediable disaster. "But they are at peace". What we may see as punishment is in fact reward. "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God".

**Second Reading** Revelation 21:1-6

Death itself is an opportunity for renewal. "Death will be no more – See, I am making all things new."

**Gospel** John 11: 32-44

St John gives a dramatic account of bodily restoration at God's hand. Lazarus, four days dead and already disintegrating physically, emerges from the tomb restored to life.

***After the introit hymn***

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord. Let us keep the feast in honour of all God’s saints, in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God. May the joy and peace of heaven be with you

All: The Lord bless you

***Invitation to Confession***

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.

***or***

*Patterns p39 (saints)*

We run the race set before us, surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses. Therefore let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Almighty God,

you have knit together your elect

in one communion and fellowship

in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:

grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints

in all virtuous and godly living

that we may come to those inexpressible joys

that you have prepared for those who truly love you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *(All Saints Sunday)*

***or in continuous form:***

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Year A Revelation 7. 9-17  Psalm 34. 1-10 1 John 3. 1-3 Matthew 5. 1-12 | Year B Wisdom 3. 1-9 or Isaiah 25. 6-9 Psalm 24. 1-6 Revelation 21. 1-6a John 11. 32-44 | Year C Daniel 7. 1-3, 15-18  Psalm 149 Ephesians 1. 11-23 Luke 6. 20-31 |

Or on 1 November, if the material above is used on the Sunday:  
Isaiah 56. 3-8 or 2 Esdras 2. 42-48  
Psalm 33. 1-5  
Hebrews 12. 18-24  
Matthew 5. 1-12

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah** (Is 25. 6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah** (Is 56. 3-8)

Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree." For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant -- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the prophecy of Daniel** (Dan 7. 1-3, 15-18)

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever - forever and ever."

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** (Wis 3. 1-9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the Second Book of Esdras** (2 Esdras 2. 42-48)

I, Ezra, saw on Mount Zion a great multitude that I could not number, and they all were praising the Lord with songs. In their midst was a young man of great stature, taller than any of the others, and on the head of each of them he placed a crown, but he was more exalted than they. And I was held spellbound. Then I asked an angel, "Who are these, my lord?" He answered and said to me, "These are they who have put off mortal clothing and have put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God. Now they are being crowned, and receive palms." Then I said to the angel, "Who is that young man who is placing crowns on them and putting palms in their hands?" He answered and said to me, "He is the Son of God, whom they confessed in the world." So I began to praise those who had stood valiantly for the name of the Lord. Then the angel said to me, "Go, tell my people how great and how many are the wonders of the Lord God that you have seen."

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

### From Psalm 34

***REFRAIN* Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,  
 [for those who fear him lack nothing].**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.  
I will glory in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and rejoice. ***Refrain***

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;  
let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me  
and delivered me out of all my terror. ***Refrain***

Look upon him and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.  
I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles. ***Refrain***

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who trust in him!  
Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord. ***Refrain***

### From Psalm 24

***REFRAIN* Those who trust in him will understand truth  
 [and the faithful will abide with him in love].**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell therein.  
For it is he who founded it upon the seas  
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. ***Refrain***

Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?  
and who can stand in his holy place?  
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by what is a fraud. ***Refrain***

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord  
and a just reward from the God of their salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. ***Refrain***

### Psalm 149

***REFRAIN* May the Father of glory give us the spirit of wisdom,  
 [may we live for the praise of his glory].**

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.  
Let Israel rejoice in his maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king. ***Refrain***

Let them praise his name in the dance;  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.  
For the Lord takes pleasure in his people  
and adorns the poor with victory. ***Refrain***

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;  
let them be joyful on their beds.  
Let the praises of God be in their throat  
and a two-edged sword in their hand. ***Refrain***

To wreak vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples;  
To bind their kings in chains  
and their nobles with links of iron;  
To inflict on them the judgement decreed;  
this is glory for all his faithful people. ***Refrain***

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians** (Eph 1. 11-23)

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the First Letter of John** (1 Jn 3. 1-3)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the Revelation to John** (Rev 7. 9-17)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine** (Rev 21. 1-6a)

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *(Matt 5. 1-12)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessèd are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessèd are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessèd are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessèd are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessèd are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessèd are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessèd are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessèd are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessèd are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Lk 6. 20-31)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessèd are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessèd are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessèd are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessèd are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (Jn 11. 32-44)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

We are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near. The peace of the Lord be always with you… **The Peace:** ASB p170

***or***

Those who serve the Lord in faith and love know the fullness of his peace. Let us share it with one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thanks for the glorious pledge of the hope of our calling which you have given us in your saints; that, following their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. ***[CW]***

***or***

And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. ***ASB p157 (22)***

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks, most gracious God,

surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses

and glorified in the assembly of your saints.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you.

In communion with angels and archangels,

and with all who served you on earth

and worship you now in heaven,

we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you *saying:*

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E in continuous form***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks, most gracious God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and glorified in the assembly of your saints. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. We, your holy Church, acclaim you. In communion with angels and archangels, and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voice to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you *saying:*

***Post communion prayer***

God, the source of all holiness

and giver of all good things:

may we who have shared at this table

as strangers and pilgrims here on earth

be welcomed with all your saints

to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

God give you grace to share the inheritance of his saints in glory.

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. Amen.

***or***

The God of peace fill you with all joy and hope in believing; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen** ***ASB p160 (last on page)***

***or***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship and a share in their praises. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness and to come to the full radiance of glory. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY** YEAR B

**FIRST READING *(Alternative readings)***

***Either***

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** (*Wisdom of Solomon 3.1–9)*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble.They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *( Isaiah 25.6–9)*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well- matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 24.1–6

#### R The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God

#### [no torment will ever touch them].

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

#### the world and all who dwell therein.

#### 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas

#### and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. R

#### 3 ‘Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?

#### and who can stand in his holy place?’

#### 4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,

#### who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,

#### nor sworn by what is a fraud. R

#### 5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord

#### and a just reward from the God of their salvation.’

#### 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,

#### of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. R

#### SECOND READING

#### A reading from the book of Revelation *(Revelation 21.1–6a)*

#### I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL

Priest: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 11. 32-44)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

#### When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED [YEAR B]

*also known as* **ALL SOULS’ DAY**

## *2 November -- Lesser Festival -- Purple, or Black, or White*

*'The believer's pilgrimage of faith is lived out with the mutual support of all the people of God. In Christ all the faithful, both living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer.' This simple, agreed statement from the Anglican--Roman Catholic International Commission explains the purpose of the celebration on this day. Since its foundation, Christians have recognised that the Church, the ecclesia, the assembled people of God, is at its most perfect when it recognises its unity in God's redeeming love with all who have said, who say now, and who will say in the fullness of time, 'Jesus is Lord'.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Invitation to Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace.

***Collect***

Priest: Let us pray for the peace and the well-being of the whole Church:

Eternal God, our Maker and Redeemer,  
grant us, with all the faithful departed,  
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion  
   and glorious resurrection  
that, in the last day,  
when you gather up all things in Christ,  
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**  *All Souls’ Day*

***or continuous form:***

Priest: Let us pray for the peace and the well-being of the whole Church:

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah** (Lam 3. 17-26, 31-33)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord." The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** (Wis 3. 1-9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 23

***REFRAIN* The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God  
 [no torment will ever touch them].**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. ***Refrain***

The Lord revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ***Refrain***

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over. ***Refrain***

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. ***Refrain***

**or**

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 27

**REFRAIN God's love has been poured into our hearts**  
 **[through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us].**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid? ***Refrain***

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid. ***Refrain***

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
to behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple. ***Refrain***

What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the Lord. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter** *(1 Pet 1. 3-9)*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us new birth into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The inheritance to which we are born is one that nothing can destroy or spoil or wither. It is kept for you in heaven, and you, because you put your faith in God, are under the protection of his power until salvation comes - the salvation which is even now in readiness, and will be revealed at the end of time.

This is cause for great joy, even though now you smart for a little while, if need be, under trials of many kinds. Even gold passes through the assayer’s fire, and more precious than perishable gold is faith that has stood the test. These trials come so that your faith may prove itself worthy of all praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

You have not seen him, yet you love him; and trusting in him now without seeing him, you are transported with joy too great for words, while you reap the harvest of your faith, that is, salvation for your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***or***

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans** (Rom 5. 5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person -- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 6. 37-40)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***or***

**GOSPEL**

Priest: I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John *(Jn 5. 19-25)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Jesus said to the Jews, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. "

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: Jesus says: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives give I unto you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

All And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

## Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks because through him you have gives us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside, an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

none, except general

***Post communion prayer***

God of love,

may the death and resurrection of Christ,

which we have celebrated in this Eucharist,

bring us, with the faithful departed,

into the peace of your eternal home.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

our rock and our salvation. **Amen.**

***or continuous form:***

God of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ, which we have celebrated in this Eucharist, bring us, with all the faithful departed, into the peace of your eternal home. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation, to whom be glory for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

***Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May God give to you

and to all those whom you love

his comfort and his peace,

his light and his joy,

in this world and the next;

and the blessing of God almighty,

+ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**SUNDAYS BEFORE ADVENT**

*In the weeks after All Saints’ Day the Church of England provision designates Sundays ‘Sundays before*

*Advent’, while the Revised Common Lectionary continues with ‘Propers’ designated by calendar dates.*

#### FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT [YEAR B] PROPER 26

*In Church of England provision this Sunday may be kept as* [*All Saints’ Sunday*](#AllSaintsSunday) *(see pages 730–734) or else the provision below is used. The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#RCL26) *continues to provide two tracks for the First Reading and Psalms.* [*Church of England*](#CofE26) *provision allows only Track 2.*

***Introduction***

*Today we hear of Jesus' two great Commandments. To love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In our Eucharistic celebration today let us ask God to inspire us to take this law of love into our hearts so that it becomes the focus of our lives and the source of our joy.*

***Hymns:***

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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 6:1-9

God gives Moses the first great commandment to be spoken, worn, housed and taught. Never to be forgotten, before their eyes and ears every moment of every day. The sign of a righteous people.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 9:11-14

Christ's sacrifice for us was God's part in the relationship of love between him and his people. When the righteous obey by loving God and God gives himself in love for us, Heaven and earth are united.

**Gospel** Mark 12:28-34

Jesus fulfilled the original Law given to Moses by revealing all the rules of life in the two great Commandments which are the very heart of Christ's teaching and the foundation stones of Christian witness.

***Invitation to Confession***

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

***or***

As God loves us, so we are also asked to love him and one another. Despite our human weakness, his love never ends and our security within it is absolute.

***Collect***

Almighty and eternal God,

you have kindled the flame of love

in the hearts of the saints:

grant to us the same faith and power of love,

that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,

we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *4 before Advent*

***or continuous form:***

Almighty and eternal God, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints: grant to us the same faith and power of love, that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may be sustained by their example and fellowship; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***TRACK 1*** ***(Revised Common Lectionary only)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Ruth** *(Ruth 1. 1–18)*

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, ‘No, we will return with you to your people.’ But Naomi said, ‘Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.’ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’ But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!’ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 146

***REFRAIN* The Lord has done great things for us**

**[and we are glad].**

1 Alleluia!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ***Refrain***

2 Put not your trust in rulers,

nor in any child of earth,

for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish. ***Refrain***

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob

for their help!

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas,

and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger. ***Refrain***

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked. ***Refrain***

9 The Lord shall reign for ever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia! ***Refrain***

***or*** ***TRACK 2 (******Church of England provision)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy** *(Deut 6. 1–9)*

This is the commandment – the statutes and the ordinances – that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 119. 1-8

***REFRAIN* Lord, may I keep your statutes.**

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless,

who walk in the law of the Lord!

2 Happy are they who observe his decrees

and seek him with all their hearts! ***Refrain***

3 Who never do any wrong,

but always walk in his ways.

4 You laid down your commandments,

that we should fully keep them. ***Refrain***

5 O that my ways were made so direct

that I might keep your statutes!

6 Then I should not be put to shame,

when I regard all your commandments. ***Refrain***

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,

when I have learned your righteous judgements.

8 I will keep your statutes;

do not utterly forsake me. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 9. 11–14)*

Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 12. 28–34)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

One of the scribes came near and heard the religious authorities disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,” and “to love one’s neighbour as oneself” – this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Peace of heart is God's gift to those who hear the words of Jesus and live them to the full, trusting in him to save them. The peace of the Lord be always with you

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thinks that he is the King of glory, who overcomes the sting of death and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He is seated at your right hand in glory and we believe that he will come to be our judge.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

that we should always sing of your glory,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,

the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ

brings home the lost,

restores the sinner

and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,

flooding lives with goodness and truth,

gathering into one in your kingdom

a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation

we glorify your name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***Post communion prayer***

Lord of heaven,

in this Eucharist you have brought us near

to an innumerable company of angels

and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:

as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage

we have shared their fellowship,

so may we come to share their joy in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May love for God overwhelm you.

May the example of Christ guide your life.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to serve without restraint.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be your joy forever. **Amen**

#### THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT [YEAR B] PROPER 27

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#RCL27) *(track 1) and the* [*Church of England*](#CofE27) *(track 2) make different provision for today.*

***Introduction to worship***

*In our worship today we remember that God has expectations of us as his children. He calls us to serve him.*

***Hymns:***

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|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings (Church of England)***

**First Reading** Jonah 3:1-5,10

Jonah had shown a deep reluctance to respond to God's call. Now he bites the bullet and the people of Nineveh respond.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ made a full response to his heavenly Father's call though the path led to the Cross. His unique vocation was "to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself."

**Gospel** Mark 1:14-20

The kingdom of God is very near. Jesus begins to proclaim the good news and calls Andrew and Peter, James and John, to be his disciples.

***Invitation to Confession***

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

***or***

In our daily lives we find ourselves tempted to seek our own ends and to pursue our selfish hopes and aspirations. Our self-centredness dulls our hearing.

***or***

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

***or***

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil distortions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for all his children

***Collect***

Almighty Father,

whose will is to restore all things

in your beloved Son, the king of all:

govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,

and bring the families of the nations,

divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,

to be subject to his just and gentle rule;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and fore ever. **Amen *3 before Advent***

***or continuous form:***

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and fore ever. **Amen**

***TRACK 1*** ***(Revised Common Lectionary only)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Ruth** *(Ruth 3.1–5; 4.13–17)*

Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, said to her, ‘My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.’ She said to her, ‘All that you tell me I will do.’ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.’ Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, ‘A son has been born to Naomi.’ They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

## Psalm 127

***REFRAIN* The fruit of the womb is a gift.**

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,

their labour is in vain who build it.

2 Unless the Lord watches over the city,

in vain the guard keeps vigil. ***Refrain***

3 It is in vain that you rise so early

and go to bed so late;

vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,

for he gives to his belovèd sleep.

4 Children are a heritage from the Lord,

and the fruit of the womb is a gift. ***Refrain***

5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

are the children of one’s youth.

6 Happy are they who have their quiver full of them!

they shall not be put to shame

when they contend with their enemies in the gate. ***Refrain***

***TRACK 2*** ***(Church of England provision)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Jonah** *(Jon 3. 1–5, 10)*

The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 62. 6–14

***REFRAIN* God alone is my rock and my salvation.**

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits;

truly, my hope is in him.

7 He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

8 In God is my safety and my honour;

God is my strong rock and my refuge. ***Refrain***

9 Put your trust in him always, O people,

pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,

even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath,

all of them together. ***Refrain***

12 Put no trust in extortion;

in robbery take no empty pride;

though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,

that power belongs to God.

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,

for you repay everyone according to his deeds. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 9. 24–28)*

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark *(Mk 1. 14–20)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling". The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thinks that he is the King of glory, who overcomes the sting of death and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He is seated at your right hand in glory and we believe that he will come to be our judge.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

that we should always sing of your glory,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,

the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ

brings home the lost,

restores the sinner

and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,

flooding lives with goodness and truth,

gathering into one in your kingdom

a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation

we glorify your name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***Post communion prayer***

God of peace,

whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom

and restored the broken wholeness of life:

look with compassion on the anguish of the world,

and by your healing power

make whole both people and nations;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

***or continuous form:***

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

The God of all grace who called you

to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,

establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith.

And the blessing of God almighty,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be upon you this day

and through all the days that are to come. **Amen**.

#### SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT [YEAR B] PROPER 28

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#RCL28) *(track 1) and the* [*Church of England*](#CofE28) *(track 2) make different provision for today.*

***Introduction***

*Today's readings bring before us the momentous events which the writers of our Scriptures believed would herald the end of the world. Jesus reassures us that God has all these things in his hands and the faithful need have no fear. Christ's coming will be a cause of hope.*

***Hymns:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
| All my hope on God is founded | ga | g | 368 | 2009 |  |  |
| Christ is our cornerstone | gr | g | 395 | 2009 |  |  |
| Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels |  | o | 246 |  |  |  |
| Crown him with many crown |  | e | 166 |  |  |  |
| Fight the good fight | pc | g | 423 | 2009 |  |  |
| Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go | pc |  | 430 |  |  |  |
| Glorious things of thee are spoken |  | g | 435 |  |  |  |
| Lord, the light of your love is shining | pc | o | 513 |  |  |  |
| Oft in danger, oft in woe |  | g | 547 |  |  |  |
| Songs of thankfulness and praise |  | g | 90 |  |  |  |
| The Lord ascendeth up on high |  | e | 173 |  |  |  |
| There is a Redeemer |  | g |  |  |  |  |
| There’s a wideness in God’s mercy | of | e | 598 |  |  |  |
| Through all the changing scenes of life |  | g | 604 |  |  |  |
| Through the night of doubt and sorrow | pc | g | 605 |  |  |  |
| Who are these, like stars appearing |  | o | 229 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| One more step along the way | pc |  | 548 | 2009 |  |  |
| O food to pilgrims given | pc |  | 317 | 2009 |  |  |
| O thou, who at they Eucharist didst | of |  | 318 | 2009 |  |  |
| Wherefore, O Father, we thy humble | gr |  | 332 | 2009 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Daniel 12: 1-3

The People of God will win through every manner of persecution when they remain faithful to God. They will receive protection of the Most High and his angels, and theirs will be the triumph.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 10: 11-14 (15-18),19-25

In dying for us Christ has offered a sacrifice which removed our sins and prepares our way to the Father when the faithful remember their obligations to their creator and each other.

**Gospel** Mark 13: 1-8

Jesus warns us of the dangers and disasters which humans experience, but this is not the end. Only God knows that moment and we must live as faithfully as we can day-by-day.

***Invitation to Confession***

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

***or***

Christ calls us to have faith in God's goodness and mercy. We can come before him in confidence and ask for mercy in his name.

***Collect***

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed

to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him

in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *2 before Advent*

***or continuous form:***

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***TRACK 1*** ***(Revised Common Lectionary only)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of Samuel** *(1 Sam 1. 4–20)*

On the day when Elkanah the husband of Hannah and Peninnah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, ‘Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?’ After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: ‘O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.’ As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, ‘How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.’ But Hannah answered, ‘No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.’ Then Eli answered, ‘Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.’ And she said, ‘Let your servant find favour in your sight.’ Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked him of the Lord.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**CANTICLE**

#### 1 Samuel 2. 1–10

***REFRAIN* My heart exults in the Lord;**

**[my strength is exalted in my God].**

1 My heart exults in the Lord;

my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies,

because I rejoice in my victory.

2 There is no Holy One like the Lord,

no one besides you;

there is no Rock like our God. ***Refrain***

3 Talk no more so very proudly,

let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the Lord is a God of knowledge,

and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,

but the feeble gird on strength. ***Refrain***

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,

but she who has many children is forlorn.

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;

he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ***Refrain***

7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;

he brings low, he also exalts.

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;

he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s,

and on them he has set the world. ***Refrain***

9 He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,

but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;

for not by might does one prevail.

10 The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;

the Most High will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;

he will give strength to his king,

and exalt the power of his anointed. ***Refrain***

***TRACK 2*** ***(Church of England provision)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Daniel** *(Dan 12 .1–3)*

In the third year of King Cyrus a word was revealed to Daniel. ‘At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 16

***REFRAIN* You, Lord, are my portion and my cup.**

***or***

***REFRAIN* My body shall rest in hope.**

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord,

my good above all other.’

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,

upon those who are noble among the people. ***Refrain***

3 But those who run after other gods

shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer,

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;

it is you who uphold my lot. ***Refrain***

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. ***Refrain***

9 My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices;

my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy,

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 10. 11–14, (15–18), 19–25)*

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, ‘he sat down at the right hand of God,’ and since then has been waiting ‘until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.’ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,’ he also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.] Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mk 13. 1–8)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!’ Then Jesus asked him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?’ Then Jesus began to say to them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Peace is the fruit of perfect trust in God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thinks that he is the King of glory, who overcomes the sting of death and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He is seated at your right hand in glory and we believe that he will come to be our judge.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

that we should always sing of your glory,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,

the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ

brings home the lost,

restores the sinner

and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,

flooding lives with goodness and truth,

gathering into one in your kingdom

a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation

we glorify your name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

***Post communion prayer***

Gracious Lord,

in this holy sacrament

you give substance to our hope:

bring us at the last

to that fullness of life for which we long;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May God bless your past and remind you of his promises.

May Jesus reassure your hearts and minds of joys to come.

May the Holy Spirit fill your present with the will to trust and serve.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be yours forever. Amen.

#### SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT [YEAR B] PROPER 29

*Also known as* **CHRIST THE KING**

*The* [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#RCL29) *(track 1) and the* [*Church of England*](#CofE29) *(track 2) make different provision for today..*

***Introduction***

*Christ is our King and will draw all people to himself, presenting the whole restored creation to God. In this Eucharist we will unite ourselves with Christ our sovereign and brother, our leader and friend who, in his majesty, stooped to become one with his people on earth.*

***Hymns:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **pos** | **rdg** | **CP** | **2009** | **2012** | **2015** |
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***rdg: ie which reading it relates to:***

*1o OT reading, track 1 (continuous)*

*2o OT reading, track 2 (related)*

*a Reading from Acts*

*c canticle*

*e Reading from an epistle*

*g gospel*

*o Old testament reading*

*ps Psalm*

*r Reading from Revelation*

*s Seasonal*

***pos: ie position in the service:***

*ga Gathering hymn*

*gr Gradual hymn*

*of Offertory hymn*

*cm A hymn particularly suitable for singing during communion*

*pc Post-communion hymn*

***Today's Readings***

**First Reading** Daniel 7: 9-10,13-14

The celestial court condemns those who oppose God. Consolation for Daniel that despite the power of earthly rulers and their actions against the faithful, the king of heaven will see justice done.

**Second Reading** Revelation 1: 4-8

We are united with Christ as co-workers in the creation of the kingdom on earth. The glory and power are his but he draws us into fellowship with the Almighty through his sacrifice.

**Gospel** John 18: 33-37

Pilate cannot integrate the idea of Jesus as king and yet also a subject. Mighty in his gifts but humble in his bearing, despised by the leaders of his own faith, Christ's authority and his truth remain a mystery to him.

***Invitation to Confession***

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

***or***

In spite of his kingship, Christ gave himself for the world in humility and love for the forgiveness of sins and so that we might have life for ever through him.

***or***

**Invitation to confession p. 39 Kingdom (Patterns)**

Jesus says, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. So let us turn away from sin and turn to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

***Collect***

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit

and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *The Feast of Christ the King*

***or continuous form:***

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***TRACK 1*** ***(Revised Common Lectionary only)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam. 23. 1-7)*

These are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**PSALM**

# PSALM 123. 1-13, (14–19)

***REFRAIN* The Lord will set his son upon his throne.**

1 Lord, remember David

and all the hardships he endured;

2 How he swore an oath to the Lord

and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: ***Refrain***

3 ‘I will not come under the roof of my house,

nor climb up into my bed;

4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep,

nor let my eyelids slumber;

5 Until I find a place for the Lord,

a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.’ ***Refrain***

6 ‘The Ark! We heard it was in Ephrathah;

we found it in the fields of Jearim.

7 Let us go to God’s dwelling place;

let us fall upon our knees before his footstool.’ ***Refrain***

8 Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place,

you and the ark of your strength.

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;

let your faithful people sing with joy.

10 For your servant David’s sake,

do not turn away the face of your anointed. ***Refrain***

11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David;

in truth, he will not break it:

12 ‘A son, the fruit of your body

will I set upon your throne.

13 If your children keep my covenant

and my testimonies that I shall teach them,

their children will sit upon your throne for evermore.’ ***Refrain***

[ 14 For the Lord has chosen Zion,

he has desired her for his habitation:

15 ‘This shall be my resting-place for ever;

here will I dwell, for I delight in her. ***Refrain***

16 I will surely bless her provisions,

and satisfy her poor with bread.

17 I will clothe her priests with salvation,

and her faithful people will rejoice and sing. ***Refrain***

18 There will I make the horn of David flourish;

I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

19 As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame;

but as for him, his crown will shine.’ ***Refrain*** ]

***TRACK 2*** ***(Church of England provision)***

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the book of Daniel** *(Dan 7. 9–10, 13–14)*

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

#### Psalm 93

***REFRAIN* The Lord has girded himself with strength.**

1 The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;

the Lord has put on his apparel

and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure

that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began,

your throne has been established;

you are from everlasting. ***Refrain***

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord,

the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,

mightier than the breakers of the sea,

mightier is the Lord who dwells on high. ***Refrain***

6 Your testimonies are very sure,

and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,

for ever and for evermore. ***Refrain***

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the book of Revelation** *(Rev 1. 4b–8)*

Grace to you and peace from God who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL**

Priest: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(Jn 18 .33b–37)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Pilate asked Jesus, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?’ Pilate replied, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Introduction to the Peace***

Priest: To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***or***

Priest: Peace is the treasure we find when we live in the light of Christ's truth. A gift of the kingdom. Let us offer to each other this gift.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

***Eucharistic Prefaces***

***Short Preface (contemporary language)***

And now we give you thinks that he is the King of glory, who overcomes the sting of death and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He is seated at your right hand in glory and we believe that he will come to be our judge.

***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For with the oil of gladness you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son, to be our great high priest and king of all creation. As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace. As king he claims dominion over all your creatures, that he may bring before your infinite majesty a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***or in alternative layout:***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness

you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,

to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross

and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,

that he may bring before your infinite majesty

a kingdom of truth and life,

a kingdom of holiness and grace,

a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels

and all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

***Post communion prayer***

Stir up, O Lord,

the wills of your faithful people;

that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,

may by you be plenteously rewarded;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***or continuous form:***

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Blessing***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

***or***

May the God of creation reign in your lives.

May Christ our King reign in your hearts and minds.

May the Spirit of God reign over all your days.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. Amen

**Intercessions from Patterns for Worship**

**Trinity, Heaven, General** (page 77)

Leader: High and holy God, robed in majesty, Lord of heaven and earth;

we pray that you will bring justice, faith and salvation to all peoples.

Especially we pray for …

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Leader: You chose us in Christ to be your people and to be the temple of your Holy Spirit; we pray that you will fill your Church with vision and hope.

Hear our prayers for …

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Leader: Your Spirit enables us to cry “Abba! Father!”, affirms that we are fellow-heirs with Christ and pleads for us in our weakness; we pray for all who are in need or distress, including ...

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In the baptism and birth of Jesus, you have opened heaven to us and enabled us to share in your glory: the joy of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from before the world was made. Especially we pray for …

May your whole Church, living and departed, come to a joyful resurrection in your city of light.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

[Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth, we join our prayers with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saints in glory.

Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.]

For an example of this form of intercession in practice, see sheet for Trinity 10 2006.

**Intercessions from Rites on the Way**

p26. Option 3

God of all time and space, one God in Trinity,

turn your ear to hear us as we pray.

Hear us, Lord

**All: Hear us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Guiding Israel with fire and cloud,

you led your chosen people from captivity to the promised land.

We pray for guidance as we search out the Way,

and wisdom for those struggling to find it.

Guide us, Lord.

**All: Guide us Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Revealed in burning bush and in mountain cloud,

you gave the law, and taught your people.

We ask that, learning from the Scriptures,

we may grow in love for you and for one another.

Teach us, Lord.

**All: Teach us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Father, you sent your Son in human frailty

in the garden, he accepted the cup of death.

We pray for strength to meet the challenges before us,

and remember those who have inspired your Church to faith.

Strengthen us, Lord.

**All: Strengthen us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Jesus, healer of the sick,

worker of miracles, friend of the outcast;

we ask for grace to care

for our neighbours throughout the world;

we pray for the Darfur region of the Sudan,

for all who hunger in sub-Saharan Africa,

and for those living with AIDS or orphaned by it.

Sustain us, Lord.

**All: Sustain us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Holy Spirit, living breath of living God,

you inspired the apostles to preach good news.

Help us to bear witness to your love

with cheerful hearts and constant courage.

Inspire us, Lord.

**All: Inspire us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

Loving Father of all creation,

loving Saviour in form of a servant,

loving Spirit, present among us,

God of all time and space, one God in Trinity,

we offer up our prayers to you.

Hear us, Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord, and all your pilgrim Church.**

1. Leaflet entitled: The Family Advent Wreath publ. by The Liturgical Press Collegeville, Minnesota. Originally designed for use at home, with optional blessing of the wreath on the Saturday evening before Advent 1 and with set format for each Sunday and Christmas Eve. Format is essentially a responsory, a passage from Scripture, Prayers and Blessing. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 2004, used blessing only on Advent 1, changing “wreath” to “stand” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Scripture taken from the New American Bible 1970 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Leaflet entitled: The Family Advent Wreath publ. by The Liturgical Press Collegeville, Minnesota. Originally designed for use at home, with optional blessing of the wreath on the Saturday evening before Advent 1 and with set format for each Sunday and Christmas Eve. Format is essentially a responsory, a passage from Scripture, Prayers and Blessing. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Scripture taken from the New American Bible 1970. Translates ‘grasshoppers’ so probably wouldn’t use! [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Leaflet entitled: The Family Advent Wreath publ. by The Liturgical Press Collegeville, Minnesota. Originally designed for use at home, with optional blessing of the wreath on the Saturday evening before Advent 1 and with set format for each Sunday and Christmas Eve. Format is essentially a responsory, a passage from Scripture, Prayers and Blessing. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Leaflet entitled: The Family Advent Wreath publ. by The Liturgical Press Collegeville, Minnesota. Originally designed for use at home, with optional blessing of the wreath on the Saturday evening before Advent 1 and with set format for each Sunday and Christmas Eve. Format is essentially a responsory, a passage from Scripture, Prayers and Blessing. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Leaflet entitled: The Family Advent Wreath publ. by The Liturgical Press Collegeville, Minnesota. Originally designed for use at home, with optional blessing of the wreath on the Saturday evening before Advent 1 and with set format for each Sunday and Christmas Eve. Format is essentially a responsory, a passage from Scripture, Prayers and Blessing. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)