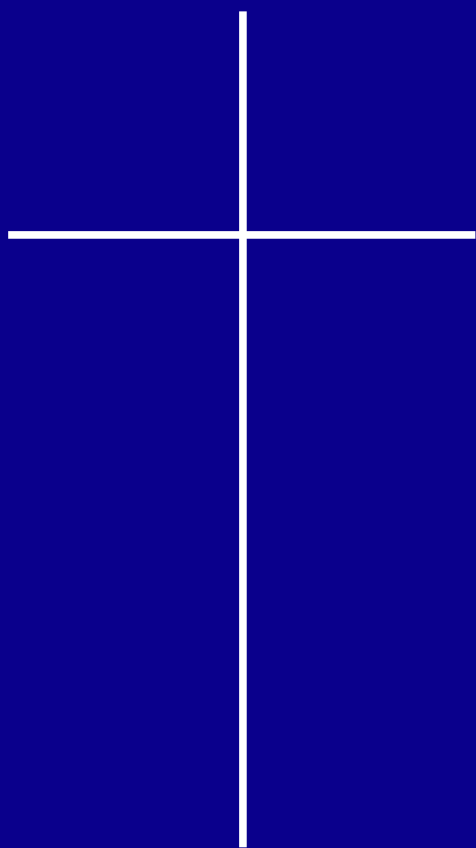


‘Signs of God’



LECTIONARY

Year A

# 'Signs of God' Lectionary Feasts & Solemnities

For clergy, pastoral workers, volunteers, Deaf people and those interested in the world of the signing Catholic community.

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# 'Signs of God' Lectionary

For use with the Signing Deaf community  
Lectionary 3rd edition  
Produced by Fr Paul Fletcher SJ and Peter McDonough  
Edited and Typeset by Peter McDonough

Advent 2021

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# Introduction

This complete and revised four volume edition of 'Signs of God' lectionaries includes all the readings for Ordinary Sundays, Proper of Seasons and Feasts/Solemnities (Year A, B, C and Feasts & Solemnities). It has been produced for the Deaf community. The original Lectionary already exists but it is not designed for Deaf signers who have to translate the vernacular (ie English) before they are able to proclaim the Word of God in sign language. The Deaf communities are a linguistic minority and within Great Britain use British Sign Language to communicate in daily living as well as in Christian witness.

British Sign Language is used in Northern Ireland and Irish Sign Language in Eire; however, many Irish Deaf are familiar with both. There is a long history of some Irish signs incorporated into British Sign Language in places such as Glasgow and London creating a mistaken notion of 'Catholic signs' versus 'Protestant signs'. It is similar to people with accents and the way they speak. These lectionaries are written with syntax which enables the signer to sign using their localized sign language to proclaim the Word of God in their own language.

In order to maintain the integrity and content of the Word of God in the Scriptures and to ensure that it is proclaimed appropriately in sign language, it is important not only to bear in mind the theology of the scriptures but also to take into account the cultural and historical background of the Deaf community. This we have tried to do in this revised edition of 'Signs of God' lectionaries.

For signers to present the Word of God in sign language, they need to go through a process of translation which involves a high level of skill, knowledge and competence, both linguistically and theologically. Conveying and proclaiming God's message from the printed word in the Lectionary into sign language needs to be clear, unambiguous, and immediately comprehensible to Deaf people in the congregation so that they do not have to mentally re-interpret what they see.

Inevitably, there will be sentences in which the English will sound a little strange to the ears; this is because of the need to facilitate the 'signability' whilst at the same time remaining faithful to the original meaning as in the Lectionary. Ideally the Lectionary is best captured in a visual form which enables signers to explore and enhance the different ways of

# Introduction

proclaiming the Word of God (see <https://www.catholicdeaf.org.uk>).

Natural sign language means entering into the Deaf culture. Furthermore, it is almost impossible to understand the signer if s/he does not use the indigenous idiomatic expression which impounds the richness of aspectual information that comes from the visual-spatial characteristics of sign language. Therefore, it is crucially important that the signers understand the contents of the texts that they are to translate and proclaim.

As regards the visual aspect of presenting the Word of God, good liturgy is possible when a 'signer' and a 'voice-over' have practised together. Too often, many people live in a world of 'words'; we have five senses and so we try to encourage 'signers' and 'voice-overs' to be conscious of how they present not only the Word of God but also themselves. The Lectern needs to be at the right height – usually waist height – many lecterns in Church are too high, they reach up almost to the neck, thus obliterating the congregation's view of the Signer apart from the face. The right height maximises the signer's signing space for signing and allows Deaf people in the congregation to see the signs proclaimed better.

There is also the background and environs to consider; it helps to have a simple plain, not crowded or cluttered, backdrop with minimal distractions. It should help the congregation to focus on the person reading, signing, and proclaiming the Word of God. Even the clothes they (Signer and Voice-over) wear are important, as well as being smart, they need to be plain and not distracting (ie texture, colour, pattern), and without such things as dangly ear-rings and dazzling jewellery.

The positioning of the lectern is also important; in some churches the lectern seems to be almost tucked away in the corner which is a pity since the crucial liturgical actions that take place are at the Lectern (Word of God) and at the altar (consecration of the bread and wine). Furthermore, if the lectern is so far off the centre, it means Deaf people, who use their eyes as the main channel for communication, have to strain their neck turned at a certain angle which can be uncomfortable. There must be nothing that blocks the line of sight between the signer and the congregation (ie candles, flowers, wreaths etc).

Finally, perhaps the single overriding aspect is the use of lighting in the Church, especially the light on the



# Introduction

signer and voice-over. Poor or insufficient lighting is akin to poor use of the PA system for hearing people. Some churches dim or subdue the lights on the sanctuary/nave for dramatic effect especially during the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, the Easter Vigil, or an evening service for Remembrance Sunday not to mention evening Reconciliation Services. Such minimal lighting can be detrimental to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons in the congregation excluding their abilities to follow proceedings thereby denying their full and proper participation. A full and proper spotlight on the lectern and the reader or cantor makes all the difference to aid inclusivity.

From experience, maintaining eye-contact with the congregation enables them to feel involved in the reception of the sacred Word. Hearing people do not realise that they subconsciously 'lip-read' the readers. Hence, advance prayerful preparation of the proclamation of the Word of God is crucial if the proper message is to be conveyed to the congregation. Likewise, there are certain signs, movements, facial expressions and gestures that they can pick up on. We pray not only with our ears but with our whole body – it is a temple in which the spirit of God lives. If the

lectern is structurally fixed in one place, it is surprising how careful forward planning, consultation with the Deaf congregation and flexibility can enhance the visual aspect of the liturgy and help to bring alive the Word of God.

To make better use of this 'Signs of God', Training Days are recommended. The local Deaf community will need to find ways of using appropriate signs as well as liturgical signs, since signs vary from one place to another. People who use other national sign languages such as Irish Sign Language, will need to be flexible and check with the original English Lectionary in conjunction with these 'Signs of God' lectionaries to find an appropriate way of signing the relevant sentence, phrase or words.

As well as the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), these 'Signs of God' will be useful for personal prayer, Prayer groups, Retreats, Training Days, and other spiritual liturgical services.

*Peter McDonough*

# Explanation

## ➤ **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF GENESIS**

In a heading such as ‘A reading from the book of Genesis’, we can’t use the sign ‘book’, because the Bible was not printed as a book until the fifteenth century. It is more appropriate, biblically correct and liturgically enriching, to sign ‘scroll’ as in the picture on the right.



*Figure 1: Torah scroll*

The symbol ⇔ shows the movement of the hands for the action of unrolling a scroll. This is used for all readings from the Old Testament. Hebrew language was used and the writing was from right to left, and new pages were added onto the left of the first one.

## ➤ **A READING FROM ST PAUL’S LETTER ⇕ TO THE ROMAN**

Neither can we sign the word ‘Epistle’ or ‘letter’. (the word ‘letter’ is printed because for a reader to voice-over ‘scroll’ does not sound right.) The word ‘letter’ is not appropriate to sign because in sign language a signer would use a sign depicting someone licking a stamp and sticking it on an envelope! The symbol ⇕ shows the movement of the hands for the action of unrolling a scroll. This is used for all readings from the New Testament. Greek language was used, and the writing was from top to bottom, left to right, and pages were added onto the bottom of the first page.



*Figure 2: vertically rolled scroll*

# Explanation

➤ *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Any word or heading in italic is not to be signed or spoken at all. They, especially scripture references, are for the reader's information only.

➤ **THANKS TO BE GOD**

Any words printed in coloured bold font means that the congregation joins/copies the reader/signer in signing the words.

➤ Now, Israel, obey the laws and customs (culture) that I teach you today.

In the text of the readings, words in parentheses are for the signer to use, since, as yet, we do not have an appropriate liturgical sign developed for the preceding word. For example, 'customs (culture)', the Signer will sign 'culture' whereas the reader doing the Voice-Over will say 'customs'.

# Prayer

God Our Father, You speak to us through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us understand your message. Open our minds and hearts so that we will receive your Holy Words. Help us to understand the teachings of your Son Jesus. Let us read Your Book, God's book, that we will worthily proclaim your message so that all will receive the Good News of Jesus Christ and receive Life. Amen.

We ask Mary, the Mother of the Church, to show us how to 'treasure' the Words of Jesus her Son. Amen.

# 1st Sunday of Advent

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

Isaiah, son of Amoz, had a vision and received this message about Judah and Jerusalem:

In the future, the Temple will be on the mountain and this mountain will be the highest of all the mountains. People from different nations (countries) will go to the Temple. They will say:

‘Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, let us go to the Temple of the God of Jacob, so that God will teach us his ways and we will follow his ways. The Law will come from Jerusalem, God’s message will spread everywhere.’

God will use his authority over all nations (peoples); God will be a judge and resolve (sort out) arguments between many peoples. People will stop using swords for fighting and will change them into tools for work in the fields. Nations (peoples) will not fight each other, there will be no more training for war.

All you family of Jacob, come; let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 121*

**RESPONSE: I REJOICED WHEN THEY SAID, ‘LET US GO TO GOD’S HOUSE.’**

**I REJOICED WHEN THEY SAID, ‘LET US GO TO GOD’S HOUSE.’**

I rejoiced when they said,  
‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now we are here,  
Standing inside the city of  
Jerusalem.

**I REJOICED WHEN THEY SAID, ‘LET US GO TO GOD’S HOUSE.’**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.  
Let all that love the city do well.  
For love of my family and friends,  
I say: ‘Peace be with you.’

**I REJOICED WHEN THEY SAID, ‘LET US GO TO GOD’S HOUSE.’**

# 1st Sunday of Advent

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO ROMAN**

*Romans 13:11–14*

You know the time has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly finished. The day is almost here. Let us stop doing the things that belong to the dark. Let us make ourselves strong and live in the light. No wild wasteful parties, no drunkenness, no sexual sins, no arguments, no jealousy. Protect yourselves with Jesus Christ. Stop thinking about satisfying your bodies.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, let us see your mercy. Give us your help.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 24:37–44*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The coming of the Son of Man will be

like what happened before at the time of Noah. In those days before the flood, people ate and drank, men and women married. They did not realise what would happen until the day Noah went into the boat. The flood came and all those people drowned.

It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working in the field. One man will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding grain at the mill. One woman will be taken and the other will be left.

So always be ready. You do not know when your master will come. If the owner of the house knew what time the thief would come, he would stay awake and make sure the thief could not break into the house. You too must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at a time you do not know.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

The royal family line of David is like a tree; branches will grow from the tree. In the same way, the new king will come from the family of David.

The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom, understanding, guidance and power to rule his people. The new king will know what God wants and give him reverence. The new king will not judge by how people look or what they wear; he will not listen to gossip. He will judge people fairly and honestly and will defend the poor people of the land. He will decide, and people will be punished and evil people will die. He will rule his people with justice and goodness.

Wolves and lambs will live together in peace. Panther (large cat) will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will eat together and a little boy will look after them. Cows and bears will make friends, their calves and

baby bears will sleep together. The lion will eat straw like the cows. A boy will play and put his hand into the snake's hole but the snake will not hurt the boy. On my holy mountain no one will be hurt, people will be full of knowledge of the Lord, like the sea is full of water.

On that day, the new king from the family of David will be a sign to the people of the land. They will wait for him and when he comes, he will fill them with glory.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 71*

RESPONSE: **GOD WILL GIVE JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

### **GOD WILL GIVE JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

God, teach the king to judge rightly.

Let the king judge poor people fairly.

God's justice and peace will spread.

God will rule from sea to sea.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### **GOD WILL GIVE JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

God will have pity on weak people.

He will save the lives of poor people.

Like the sun, God will live and reign for ever.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

### **GOD WILL GIVE JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

### **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Roman 15:4–9*

Everything that was written a long time ago in the scriptures (Bible) was really written to teach us: the scripture (Bible) teaches us that God always helped people that did not give up hope. God helps us, and God will help you to agree with each other and to be patient with each other. So that, together, you will give glory and praise to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respect each other the same as Christ respected you. This will

give glory to God. Christ became a servant of the Jews to show that God is faithful, and that God keeps the promises he made to the Jewish Fathers long ago. Christ also became a servant to help the non-Jews so that they could praise God because of his mercy to them. It is written in the scripture (Bible):

'I will praise and give you thanks because you are God of all people.'

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all people will see the salvation of God.

### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 3:1–12*

John the Baptist came and began preaching in the desert of Judaea.



## 2nd Sunday of Advent

John said, 'Repent, change your hearts, because God's kingdom is coming soon. The prophet Isaiah had already written about John the Baptist. In the book of Isaiah, it says:

"Someone (John the Baptist) shouts in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make his paths straight.'"

John's clothes were made from camel's hair. He had a leather belt round his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People went to hear John preach. They came from Jerusalem and all over Judaea. They confessed their sins and John baptised them in the river Jordan. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to the river to be baptised. But John saw them and he said, 'You snakes! Who told you that you could escape from the punishment of God? You must show you have changed your lives and stopped sinning. You must not think you can protect yourselves by saying, "Abraham is our father." I tell you God could take these stones and,

from them, make children for Abraham. The axe is ready to cut down the trees. Any tree that does not give good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water to show that you have repented. But someone will come soon that is more powerful than me. I am not good enough to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate the wheat from the straw and keep the good wheat. The rotten straw he will throw into a fire that will never go out.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 35:1–6, 10*

The desert and wasteland will rejoice, and flowers will grow. The desert will sing for joy, the desert will be beautiful like the Lebanon mountains, like the hills of Carmel and Sharon. All people will see the glory of the Lord and the beauty of our God.

To all tired and weak people, give them strength. Tell them, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming, and God will punish his enemies. God will come and save you.'

Blind people will be able to see, their eyes will be opened. Deaf people will be able to hear, their ears will be opened. Crippled people will jump like a deer. Dumb people will sing with joy; because God will make his people free.

People will come to Jerusalem, they will shout. Joy will be on their faces. They will be happy for ever; no more sadness, no more tears.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 145*

RESPONSE: **LORD, COME, SAVE US.**

**LORD, COME, SAVE US.**

The Lord is faithful forever.  
God is fair to oppressed people.  
He gives bread to the hungry.  
The Lord freed the prisoners.

**LORD, COME, SAVE US.**

The Lord helps blind people see.  
God helped those with heavy burdens.

He protects strangers, widows and orphans (children without parents).

The Lord God reigns forever.

**LORD, COME, SAVE US.**

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

## A READING FROM ST JAMES'

### SCROLL ⇅

*James 5:7-10*

Be patient brothers and sisters, the Lord will come. Be patient like a farmer because a farmer waits for his crops to grow. He waits patiently for rains in autumn and rains in spring. You too must be patient. Do not give up because the Lord Jesus is coming soon.

Brothers and sisters, do not complain against each other. If you don't stop complaining, you will be judged guilty. The Judge will appear soon. Look at the example of the prophets - they followed the Lord with patience.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord has given me his spirit. He sent me to bring good news to the poor.

## ALLELUIA!

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 11:2-11*

John the Baptist was in prison. He heard about the things Christ was doing. So John sent his disciples to see Jesus. They went and asked Jesus: 'John wants to know: are you the person that is coming, or should we wait for another person?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see: blind people see again, crippled people walk, lepers are cleansed, deaf people hear, dead people are raised from death, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor. Anyone that believes in me will be blessed.'

When John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the people about John. 'When you went into the desert, what

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

did you expect to see? A blade of grass moving in the wind? No? What did you expect to see? A man in expensive clothes? No! People with expensive clothes live in palaces. So what did you expect to see in the desert? To see a prophet? Yes! I tell you, John is more than a prophet; in the scriptures (Bible), it is written about John:

"God said, I will send my messenger (person) in front of you. He will prepare the way for you."

I tell you the truth: John the Baptist is greater than any person that has lived. But the least important person in God's kingdom is greater than John.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 4th Sunday of Advent

*Psalm 23*

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

The Lord sent Isaiah to tell Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God to give you a sign. It can be from deep in the world of the dead or from high up in heaven.' Ahaz answered, 'No, I will not ask for a sign. I refuse to test the Lord.'

Then Isaiah said, 'You people from the family of David, listen carefully: it is bad to test people's patience, but to test God's patience is worse. The Lord himself will give you a sign. This is the sign: a young pregnant woman; she will give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel, the name means "God-is-with-us."'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS KING.  
LET HIM COME!**

**THE LORD IS KING. LET HIM  
COME!**

The world belongs to the Lord.  
He created the seas.

All that lives on the earth,  
belongs to the Lord.

**THE LORD IS KING. LET HIM  
COME!**

Who will climb the mountain of  
the Lord?

Who will go to his holy place?  
The person with pure (clean)  
heart.

The person that does not worship  
false gods.

**THE LORD IS KING. LET HIM  
COME!**

The Lord will bless that person.  
God will save that person.

Good people seek (look for) God.

**THE LORD IS KING. LET HIM  
COME!**

# 4th Sunday of Advent

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 1:1-7*

I am Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ. Jesus chose me to be an apostle. Jesus chose me to tell God's Good News. Long ago God made a promise through his prophets that he would give his people Good News. This promise is written in the scriptures (Bible).

This Good News is about the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born from the family of David. Through the spirit, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was raised from death. Through Jesus, God gave me the grace to become an apostle. I have the special work of leading all non-Jewish people from all nations (countries) to help them believe and obey. This means that you people living in Rome belong to Jesus Christ. I write to all of you in Rome: God loves you all, he wants you to be saints. Let God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

### ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The virgin will conceive. A son will be born, he will be called 'Emmanuel' meaning 'God-is-with-us.'

### ALLELUIA!

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how the birth of Jesus happened. The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, Mary found that she was pregnant. She had a baby in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to embarrass Mary or give her a bad name, so he made plans for a divorce quietly. But the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a

## 4th Sunday of Advent

dream. The angel said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. She has the baby in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.' All this happened because God had made this promise through the prophet:

'A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. He will be called Emmanuel, a name meaning "God-is-with-us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife Mary to his home.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Christmas Vigil Mass

*Psalm 88*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 62:1–5*

The Lord God said: 'I will encourage Jerusalem. I will not be silent, I will help Jerusalem until she is saved. I will wait until Jerusalem's goodness shines like light. Then all the world will see your goodness, and all the kings will see your glory. You will be like a beautiful crown for the Lord. The Lord will give you a new name. No more will your name be "Rejected" nor the land "Abandoned." Your new name will be "My Delight", and your land will be called "Married"; because the Lord is happy with you. The Lord will be like a young man marrying you as his bride. As God created you, He will be with you. Like the man happy with his bride, the Lord God will rejoice in you.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: LORD, I WILL SING  
ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

I made a covenant (God's promise) with my chosen one. I promised David, my servant: I said I will establish a kingdom that will continue for ever.

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

The people will be happy with their king.

The king follows God's way.

God said: 'I will love him, I will make him victorious.'

The king will say to God: 'You are my father, the God, that saves me.'

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

## **A READING FROM THE ACTS ⇄ OF THE APOSTLES**

*Acts 13:16–17, 22–25*

Paul arrived at Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue. Paul wanted people to listen, to



# Christmas Vigil Mass

look at him and be silent so he raised his hand and began to speak:

‘People of Israel, you that worship God, listen to me. The God of Israel chose our people of long ago. When our people were suffering and living in a foreign land, the land of Egypt, God helped his people to escape. God made them become a great nation (people).

Then God made David the king of our ancestors (people of the past). God said, "I have chosen David, the son of Jesse. He is the man that will do all the things I want him to do." God promised that one of David's descendants (future children) would be Jesus. Jesus will be the Saviour for the people of Israel. Before Jesus came, John the Baptist preached and told the people of Israel that they must be baptised to show their repentance. Before John the Baptist finished his work he said to the people, "You think I am the Christ - I am not. Christ will come

later and I am not worthy to untie his sandal."

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Tomorrow the sin of the world will stop. The saviour of the world will be our king.

### **ALLELUIA!**

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 1:1–25*

A genealogy (family tree) of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother, Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

# Christmas Vigil Mass

Ram was the father of  
Amminadab,  
Amminadab the father of  
Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon was the father of Boaz,  
Rahab being his mother,  
Boaz was the father of Obed,  
Ruth being his mother,  
Obed was the father of Jesse;  
and Jesse was the father of King  
David.

David was the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been Uriah's  
wife,  
Solomon was the father of  
Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asa,  
Asa was the father of  
Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Azariah,  
Azariah was the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah was the father of  
Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon,  
Amon the father of Josiah;  
and Josiah was the father of  
Jechoniah and his brothers.  
Then the deportation (exile) to  
Babylon happened.

After the deportation to Babylon:  
Jechoniah was the father of  
Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel was the father of  
Abiud,  
Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor was the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob;  
and Jacob was the father of  
Joseph the husband of Mary; of

# Christmas Vigil Mass

her was born Jesus called the Christ.

Altogether, there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David; fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian deportation (exile); and fourteen generations from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

\* This is how the birth of Jesus happened. The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, Mary found that she was pregnant. She had a baby in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to embarrass Mary or give her a bad name, so he made plans for a divorce quietly. But the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. She has the baby in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. She will

give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.' All this happened because God had made this promise through the prophet:

'A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. He will be called Emmanuel, a name meaning "God-is-with-us."'

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife Mary into his home. Joseph had no sexual intercourse with Mary; she gave birth to a son, and Joseph named him Jesus. \*

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Christmas Midnight Mass

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 9:1–7*

The people that walked in darkness saw a great light. They lived in shadows, but now light shines on them. You, Lord, have made them happy. They are like people rejoicing when their harvest finished. They are like people happy to receive good things. God has taken away the yoke (heavy rod) from their back. The army boots used for war and all the uniforms of war, full of blood, will be burnt and destroyed.

Because a child is born. A Son is given to us. He will be our ruler. His name will be: 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.'

His kingdom will spread peace everywhere forever. He will rule with royal power; he will rule with fairness from the throne of David. He will establish justice for all people. From now and forever because God has promised this.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 95*

RESPONSE: **TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN. HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

**TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN. HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

Sing to the Lord!

Praise his name.

He works wonders for all his people.

Proclaim (tell) to all people about his help.

**TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN. HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

Let the sea make sounds and praise the Lord.

Let all the trees shout with joy.

Because the Lord will come to rule the earth.

He will come with justice and truth.

**TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN. HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

# Christmas Midnight Mass

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO TITUS

*Titus 2:11-14*

God showed his grace to us and his grace saved everybody. His grace taught us not to live against God but to give up all the bad things of the world. We must control ourselves and have good and holy lives here in this world, while we wait with hope for the coming of God our Saviour. Jesus will come in glory. Jesus gave his life for us to free us from all wickedness. Jesus gave his life to purify (cleanse) our lives, so that we will belong to him, and do good in the world.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I bring you news of great joy:  
today Christ the Lord is born.

## ALLELUIA!

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

*Luke 2:1-14*

Caesar Augustus sent an order to all people living in the Roman Empire. This first census (registration) happened when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their home towns to be registered. Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to Bethlehem, a town in Judaea, the birth place of King David. Joseph himself was a descendant of the family of David, and he went to register with Mary, because she was engaged to marry Joseph. Mary was pregnant, and when they arrived in Bethlehem, the time was right for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to a son, Jesus. There was no room for them in the hotels, so Mary wrapped the baby with warm clothes and laid the baby in a manger (box) used for feeding cows. Not far away, some shepherds lived in the fields, watching their sheep that night. The angel of the Lord appeared

# Christmas Midnight Mass

to them, the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. I come to tell you good news. The good news will give joy to all people. Today, in this town, Christ the Lord is born! Go, and you will find a baby wrapped in warm clothes and lying in a manger (box).' Suddenly other angels appeared from heaven, and they all praised God and sang:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to all people.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Christmas Day Mass

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

It is wonderful to see a person walk on the mountains bringing Good News of peace and happiness! Announcing salvation, saying, 'Your God is King!'

The city guards shout together with joy because they can see the Lord coming.

You people of Jerusalem and your destroyed buildings, shout with joy. Why? Because the Lord comes to give comfort and support to his people. He will save Jerusalem.

The Lord will show his holy strength to all nations.

All people will see the salvation of our God.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 97*

RESPONSE: **ALL PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF GOD.**

**ALL PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF GOD.**

Sing to the Lord.

He has done wonderful things!  
By his power God saved all people.

He remembered his promise to the people of Israel.

**ALL PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF GOD.**

God remembered his love for us.  
All people have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing with joy to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

**ALL PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF GOD.**

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ TO THE HEBREWS

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

In the past, God spoke to our people many times and in many different ways through the prophets. But now God speaks to us through his Son. God made the world through his Son. God chose his Son to receive everything. The Son shows us the glory of God. The Son is the perfect copy of God, His Father.

# Christmas Day Mass

The Son gives life to the world by his powerful word. Now, the Son has destroyed sin, and has gone to heaven and is at the right hand of God the Father.

God gave him a name greater than anyone and the Son of God is greater than the angels of heaven.

God never said to any angel, 'You are my Son, today I have become your Father.' No, when God brought his Son into the world, he said, 'Let all the angels worship Him (Jesus).'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all people.

### **ALLELUIA!**

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 1:1–18*

\* In the beginning, the Word was there. The Word was with God. He (Jesus) was with God in the beginning. Through him God made all things. Nothing was created without him. Through him all things lived. His life brought light to the people. A light shines in the dark, and the dark could not overpower the light. \*

God sent a man named John. He came as a witness, to tell the people about the light, so that all can believe in him. John himself was not the light, only a witness to tell the people about the light.

\* The Word was the true light. The Word came into the world and gave light to all people. The Word was in the world. The world was made through him, but the world did not know him. He came to his own country, but his



# Christmas Day Mass

people did not accept him. Some did accept him, so He gave them power to become God's children, because they believed in the name of the one born of God himself. The Word became flesh, he lived with us. We saw his glory, the glory he received because he was the Son of God the Father, full of grace and truth. \*

John came as a witness. He told people: 'This is the one I told you about. He comes after me, but he is more important than me, because he lived before I was born.'

All of us received grace and blessings from him. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God, only the Son - he is nearest to the Father's heart. He (Jesus) has told us about his Father.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Holy Family

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ECCLESIASTICUS

*Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14*

The Lord honours the father through his children. The Lord protects the mother's rights over her sons. Those respecting their father will have their sins forgiven; those honouring their mother will do well. Those respecting their father will be happy with their own children, the Lord will hear their prayers. Those honouring their father will have long life; those that help their mother relax are obeying the Lord.

My child, support your father in his old age, do not make him sad during his life. If his mind fails, show sympathy. Do not let your health and strength make him feel small. Kindness to a father will never be forgotten; this kindness will take away your sins.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalm 127*

RESPONSE: **BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT WALK IN GOD'S WAY.**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT WALK IN GOD'S WAY.**

Blessed the people that show respect to the Lord.

Blessed they that walk God's way.

Blessed are you that work hard, you will eat.

You will be happy and do well.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT WALK IN GOD'S WAY.**

Your wife will be like a vine, full of good fruit.

Your children around your table will be as many as the branches of an olive tree.

Let the Lord bless you,

Everyday of your life!

**BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT WALK IN GOD'S WAY.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S  
SCROLL ⇕ TO THE COLOSSIANS

*Colossians 3:12-21*

You are the people of God, you are his saints. He loves you. So you should have compassion,

# Holy Family

kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Be patient; don't quarrel with each other. Forgive each other. The Lord forgave you, now you must do the same. And most important of all, love each other. Let the peace of Christ always be in your hearts and help you come together like one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ live inside you. Teach and advise (help) each other wisely. Sing and pray to God giving thanks with all your hearts. Everything you say, everything you do, should always be in the name of the Lord Jesus; thanking God the Father through Jesus.

Wives, obey your husbands as you obey the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them. Children, obey your parents and you will make God happy. Parents, do not make your children angry and have bad feelings, or they will become frustrated.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Let the peace of Christ be in your hearts. Let the message of Christ live within you.

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23*

After the three wise men had gone, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, 'Get up! Take the baby and his mother, and escape to Egypt. King Herod is looking for the baby and wants to kill him. Go and stay in Egypt until I tell you when it's safe to come back.' So Joseph got up that night and went with the baby and his mother. They stayed in Egypt until King Herod was dead. This proved the things that God had told the people through the prophet:

*I called my son out of Egypt.*

After King Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel

# Holy Family

said, 'Get up! Take the baby and his mother, and go back to Israel. The people that wanted to kill the baby are now dead.' So Joseph got up and went back to Israel with the baby and his mother. But when Joseph found out that King Herod's son, Archelaus, was now king of Judaea, Joseph was afraid to go there. Again the angel warned Joseph in a dream, and Joseph went to Galilee. There the family lived in a town called Nazareth, so that the things spoken by the prophets would happen:

*He, Jesus, will be called a Nazarene.*

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Mary, Mother of God

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF NUMBERS

*Numbers 6:22–27*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Tell Aaron and his sons: "This is how you will bless the sons of Israel. You will say to them:

Let the Lord bless you and keep you. Let the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious (good) to you. Let the Lord show you his face and bring you peace."

This is how they will say my name praying for the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 66*

RESPONSE: **O GOD, BE KIND  
AND BLESS US.**

### O GOD, BE KIND AND BLESS US.

O God, look kindly on us.  
Show light on us, so we will know  
your way.  
All nations (peoples) will know  
you saved us.

### O GOD, BE KIND AND BLESS US.

Let all nations (peoples) be glad  
and rejoice because you rule the  
world with justice.

You guide all people on earth.  
Let all peoples praise you, O God.  
Let God bless us forever.

### O GOD, BE KIND AND BLESS US.

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE GALATIANS

*Galatians 4:4–7*

At the right time, God sent his  
Son, born from a woman. The Son  
lived obedient to the Law. He  
came to save us because we too  
were under the Law, so we could  
become God's children. The proof  
that you are children of God is  
that God has already sent His  
Spirit into your hearts. This Spirit  
in us helps us pray to God, 'Abba,  
Father.' This same Spirit makes us  
children of God. We are not  
slaves (we are free). God will give

# Mary, Mother of God

us everything because we are his children.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

In the past God spoke to us in many different ways. But today, God speaks to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

*Luke 2:16–21*

The shepherds went quickly to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger (box). When the shepherds saw the baby, they told Mary and Joseph about the angels, and what the angels said about the baby. Everybody was surprised about the things the shepherds said. Mary thought about these things, she remembered and kept them in

her heart. The shepherds went back to the fields. They praised God for everything they had heard and seen. It was the same as the angels told them.

On the eighth day, Mary and Joseph presented (offered) their baby to the Jewish priest in the Synagogue. Mary and Joseph named him 'Jesus', because that was the name the angel gave before his conception.

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 2nd Sunday after Christmas

*Psalm 147*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ECCLESIASTICUS**

*Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12*

Wisdom sings her own praises. Among all people, wisdom shines with glory. Wisdom opens her mouth in front of the Most High God. In front of Almighty God, wisdom shows her glory.

'Then God, the Creator, gave me a place for my tent, said:

"Put your tent here in Jacob, and Israel will be your inheritance."

In the beginning, he created me and I will remain (stay) for ever. In the holy tent I served him and so I became established in Zion. In the beloved city he gave me rest, and Jerusalem will be under my authority. My roots are in the special people of Israel, his inheritance.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: THE WORD (JESUS) BECAME FLESH AND HE LIVED WITH US.**

**THE WORD (JESUS) BECAME FLESH AND HE LIVED WITH US.**

Jerusalem, praise the Lord!

God made the gates of Jerusalem strong.

He blessed the children in your city.

God established peace in your country.

He feeds you with good wheat.

**THE WORD (JESUS) BECAME FLESH AND HE LIVED WITH US.**

God sends his word (Jesus) to the earth.

The world quickly obeys.

God gave his laws and rules to Israel.

He has not given his laws to other nations (peoples).

**THE WORD (JESUS) BECAME FLESH AND HE LIVED WITH US.**

## 2nd Sunday after Christmas

### **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE EPHESIANS**

*Ephesians 1:3–6, 15–18*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave us all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us. God chose us to be holy and without fault, and to live with love in his presence. Through Christ, God wants us to become his children. Let us praise God for his grace, for the free gift he gave us through his Son.

That is why I always remember you in my prayers and I thank God for you, because I know about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people. I ask God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you a spirit of wisdom, and to show you His Will, so that you will know Him better. I pray God will open your mind, so that you can see the hope he gives you, and the wonderful glories that he promised the saints will receive.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
You came into the world and the world believed in you.

### **ALLELUIA!**

[SHORT FORM read between \*.....\*]

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 1:1–18*

\* In the beginning, the Word was there. The Word was with God. The Word was God. He (Jesus) was with God in the beginning. Through him God made all things. Nothing was created without him. Through him all things lived. His life brought light to the people. A light shines in the dark, and the dark could not overpower the light. \*

God sent a man named John. He came as a witness, to tell the people about the light, so that all can believe in him. John himself was not the light, only a witness to tell the people about the light.



## 2nd Sunday after Christmas

\* The Word was the true light. The Word came into the world and gave light to all people. The Word was in the world. The world was made through him, but the world did not know him. He came to his own country, but his people did not accept him. Some did accept him, so He gave them power to become God's children, because they believed in the name of the one born of God himself. The Word became flesh, he lived with us. We saw his glory, the glory he received because he was the Son of God the Father, full of grace and truth. \*

John came as a witness. He told people: 'This is the one I told you about. He comes after me, but he is more important than me, because he lived before I was born.'

All of us received grace and blessings from him. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God, only the Son - he is nearest to the

Father's heart. He (Jesus) has told us about his Father.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Epiphany of the Lord

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 60 1–6*

Jerusalem, arise. Your light has come. The Lord's glory is shining on you. Look, the world and all its people are still in the dark but the light of the Lord will shine on you. The brightness of his presence will shine on you. Other people and kings will come to your light.

Look around and see what is happening, all peoples are coming towards you; from far away your sons will come, your daughters will be carried to you.

You will see this and your heart will be filled with joy. Overseas, the wealth of other countries will be brought to you. Many camels will come to you, the young camels from Midian and Ephah. From Sheba everybody will come, they will bring gold and incense and they will praise the Lord.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 71*

RESPONSE: **ALL PEOPLE WILL BOW IN FRONT OF YOU, O LORD.**

**ALL PEOPLE WILL BOW IN FRONT OF YOU, O LORD.**

God, teach the king to judge rightly.

Let the king judge poor people fairly.

God's justice and peace will spread.

God will rule from sea to sea.

**ALL PEOPLE WILL BOW IN FRONT OF YOU, O LORD.**

God has pity on weak people.

He will save the lives of the poor.

**ALL PEOPLE WILL BOW IN FRONT OF YOU, O LORD.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE EPHESIANS

*Ephesians 3:2–3, 5–12*

I'm sure you have heard about me - that God, through his grace, showed his mystery to me so I can help you. In the past, people didn't know the mystery, but now God, through His Spirit, revealed

# Epiphany of the Lord

(show) it to his holy apostles and prophets. This means that the pagans (non-believers) now share God's blessings with the Jews. The pagans (non-believers) are members of the same body (the Church). They share the same promise of God, in Jesus Christ, through the Gospel.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

We saw his star and we followed.  
We come to worship the Lord.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time when King Herod ruled. The wise men saw a star and came from the East. They asked, 'Where is the baby born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East

and we have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was very worried. All the people in Jerusalem were worried too. King Herod had a meeting with all the Jewish priests and scribes (writers). He asked, 'Where will the baby be born?' They replied, 'In Bethlehem because in the scriptures (Bible), the prophet wrote:

"A leader will come from Bethlehem and he will shepherd my people Israel."

Then King Herod asked to see the wise men privately. He wanted to know the exact date when they first saw the star. Then he sent the wise men to Bethlehem, telling them, 'Go, look carefully for the baby, and when you have found him, let me know so I can come to worship him.' The wise men went on their journey and again they saw the star. They were filled with joy. They followed it and the star stopped over the place where the baby was. They went into the place and they saw the baby with his Mother Mary,

# Epiphany of the Lord

then they knelt down and worshipped him. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But in a dream, they received a warning not to go back to king Herod; they went home a different way.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Baptism of the Lord

*Psalm 28*

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*

The Lord says: 'Look at my servant, I gave him strength. I chose him and I am pleased with him. I gave him my spirit, so he can bring justice to all people.

He will not shout or make loud speeches in the streets. The reed (tall woody grass) he will not break; the weak flame, he will not blow out. He will bring true justice. He will not lose confidence, will not lose hope or give up. He will establish true justice on earth. People in other countries wait to receive his law.

I, the Lord, chose you to serve with justice. I formed you, I take your hand and guide you. I appointed you as a covenant (God's promise); through you I will bring light to other people. The eyes of the blind, you will open; those in prison, you will free; and those living in the dark you will save.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.**

**THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.**

Praise the Lord.

Praise his glory and power.

Adore the Lord in his holy Temple.

**THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.**

The voice of the Lord is like thunder over the seas of the world.

The voice of the Lord, full of power and glory.

Everybody in the Temple praises God saying: 'Glory to you, Lord!'

The Lord is King for ever.

**THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.**

## A READING FROM THE ACTS ⇕ OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 10:34-38*

Peter spoke to Cornelius and the people in his house, 'I now realize it is true that God has no

# Baptism of the Lord

favourites. God accepts any person from any country, if that person worships God and behaves the right way.

It is true, God sent his Word (Jesus) to the people of Israel. He brought the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ - and Jesus is Lord of all people. You have heard different things that happened in Judaea, about Jesus of Nazareth, and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went everywhere doing good work, and healed all that were under the power of the Devil, because God was with Jesus.'

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The heavens opened and the Father said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Jesus came from Galilee and went to the River Jordan. He wanted to be baptised by John. As Jesus approached John the Baptist, John said, 'Why do you want me to baptise you? You should baptise me!' But Jesus replied, 'For now, you should baptise me because it is right.' So John baptised Jesus.

Immediately after Jesus was baptised, as Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened. He saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. I am pleased with him.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Ash Wednesday

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF JOEL

*Joel 2:12–18*

‘Now,’ says the Lord, ‘Repent (be sorry) and come back to me, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Let your broken heart show your sorrow. Tearing your clothes is no good.’

Turn to the Lord again. He is kind and full of mercy. He is patient and keeps his promise. He is always ready to forgive and not punish. Who knows, maybe the Lord your God will change his mind and bless you with plenty of crops. Then you can offer him corn and wine.

Blow the trumpet. Proclaim a fast, and tell all people to come. Bring them together. Prepare them for a holy meeting. Bring old people. Bring the children and babies too. Recently married couples must leave their bedroom and come. The priests, serving the Lord in the Temple, weep (cry).

Let them all say:

“Have mercy on your people, Lord. Do not let the people in

other nations (countries) despise (shame) us. Do not let them mock us, “Where is your God?”

The Lord will show concern (care) and have mercy on his people.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 50*

RESPONSE: **HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

Have mercy on me, God.

Wipe away my sins!

Because of your great compassion,

cleanse me and help me never sin again.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

My sins I know

I can never forget.

I sinned against you Lord

Wicked, evil things I have done.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

# Ash Wednesday

Create (make) a pure heart within me, O God,  
Put a strong spirit within me.  
Give me your Holy Spirit  
And I will proclaim your goodness.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD,  
BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ↕ TO THE CORINTHIANS**

*2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2*

We are servants for Christ. We are here to speak for Christ, almost like God speaking to you through us. We urge (encourage) you to be reconciled (friends) with God. Christ had no sin but God made him share our suffering so that through Christ we could become good with God. We are working for God and we urge you not to ignore the grace God gave you.

God says: 'At the right time I listened to your prayers. I helped you on the day of salvation.'

Well, now is the right time; today is the day of salvation.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ACCLAMATION**

Create (make) a pure heart within me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be careful not to show off your good works so that people see what you do. If you show off everything that you do, you will lose your reward from your Father in Heaven. When you give something to a needy person do not make a big show of it, like the hypocrites (two-faced) do in the synagogues and in the streets. They do it so people will see and praise them. I tell you the truth, they have already received their reward.'



# Ash Wednesday

But when you help a needy person, do it in a way that your left hand does not know what your right hand is doing (in a way that your best friend does not know what you do). Your giving and helping must be secret, and your Father sees all that you do in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, do not copy the hypocrites! They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, they have already received their reward. But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father - He is in that secret place - and your Father that sees everything you do in secret will reward you.

When you fast, do not show a miserable or sad face like the hypocrites do. They show long faces to let people know that they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, wash your face, comb your hair, so that other people do not know that

you are fasting. Only your Father in Heaven will know. And your Father that sees everything that you do in secret will reward you.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

## **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 1st Sunday of Lent

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF GENESIS

*Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7*

The Lord God took soil from the ground and created man. God breathed into the man's nostrils (nose) and the man began to breathe.

God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and he put the man there. God created all kinds of beautiful trees growing good fruit in the garden. In the middle of the garden God put the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The snake was the most cunning (sly) animal that God had created. The snake asked the woman, 'Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden?' The woman answered, 'We can eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But God told us that we must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. We must not touch it; if we touch this tree, we will die.' The snake said to the woman, 'No! you will not die! God knows that when you eat it,

your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree looked nice, and the fruit good to eat. She wanted knowledge to become wise. So she took the fruit and ate it. She gave some to her husband and he ate it. Then their eyes were opened and they realised that they were both naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 50*

RESPONSE: **HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

Have mercy on me, God.

Wipe away my sins!

Because of your great compassion,

cleanse me and help me never sin again.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

# 1st Sunday of Lent

My sins I know  
I can never forget.  
I sinned against you Lord  
Wicked, evil things I have done.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD,  
BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

Create (make) a pure heart within  
me, O God,  
Put a strong spirit within me.  
Give me your Holy Spirit  
And I will proclaim your  
goodness.

**HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD,  
BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED.**

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 5:12–19*

\* Sin came into the world through one man, Adam. His sin brought death. Death spread to all people in the world, because everybody sinned.\*

Sin was in the world long before the Law was given. A long time ago, there was no law, so no one

could be blamed for sin. But from the life of Adam to the life of Moses, there was death. All died because of their sins, but their sins were not the same as the sin of Adam because Adam broke the law.

Because of Adam, another man (Jesus Christ) had to come. But the two were not the same; the gift of grace of Jesus Christ was more powerful than the sin of Adam. It is true many people died because of the sin of one man, Adam, but God's grace is powerful. God's free gift - Jesus Christ - saves many people. There is a difference between God's gift and the sin of one man. Adam sinned once and Adam was judged guilty. But God's grace came after many sins and we became free.

\* It is true that because of the sin of one man, death ruled over all people. But it is also true that because of Jesus Christ, everybody will receive grace and be reconciled (friends again) with

# 1st Sunday of Lent

God and have life with Christ. So the sin of one man brought punishment to all people; and so, the good act of one man, Jesus Christ, brought life to all people and made them good again. One man - Adam - refused to obey God and all people became sinners. But one man - Jesus Christ - obeyed God, and all people became friends again with God. \*

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## ACCLAMATION

People cannot live on bread only.  
God's word keeps people alive.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 4:1-11*

The Spirit led Jesus into the desert and he was tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted (no food) for forty days and forty nights. After this, Jesus was very hungry.

The devil came to tempt Jesus and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to change into bread.' But Jesus answered:

'The scriptures (Bible) say: "People cannot live on bread alone. The word that comes from God keeps people alive."'

Then the devil brought Jesus to the holy city and made him stand on top of the Temple. The devil said, 'If you are the Son of God, jump. The scriptures (Bible) say the angels will protect you with their hands, and you will not hit the rocks and hurt yourself.' But Jesus said:

'It also says in the scriptures (Bible) that you must not test the Lord your God.'

Then the devil brought Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and all their power. The devil said to Jesus, 'I will give you all this, if you kneel down and worship me.' But Jesus replied to the devil, 'Go away, Satan (devil)! The scriptures (Bible) say:

# 1st Sunday of Lent

"You must worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

The devil left Jesus. The angels appeared and looked after Jesus.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

## 2nd Sunday of Lent

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF GENESIS

*Genesis 12:1-4a*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house. Go to the land I will show you. I will make your people, your descendants (future children), become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous. Your name will be used as a blessing.

The people that bless you, I will bless them. The people that do wrong against you, I will curse (condemn) them. Through you, I will bless all the people of the earth.'

So Abram obeyed the Lord, and went with his family.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 32*

RESPONSE: **LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

The word of the Lord is always true.

We trust his works.

The Lord loves justice and right.

The Lord fills the earth with his love.

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

The Lord looks on those that respect him.

He saves their souls from death.

The Lord is our help and shield.

Lord, show us your love.

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇅ TO TIMOTHY

*2 Timothy 1:8-10*

With me, accept your sufferings because of the Good News. Rely on God, because God saved us, and wants us to be holy - not because of anything we have done but because of his grace. God decided, before the beginning of time, to give us this grace through Jesus Christ, and this grace was shown to us

## 2nd Sunday of Lent

through the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus destroyed death, and through the gospel, the Good News, Jesus gave us new life.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ACCLAMATION**

The Father's voice from the cloud said: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 17:1-9*

Six days later, Jesus went up a high mountain with Peter and the two brothers, James and John. They were alone with Jesus. The three disciples saw Jesus change. His face became bright like the sun. His clothes were white like light. Suddenly, two men appeared, Moses and Elijah, and they were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here. If

you want, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came, and the shadow covered the three disciples. A voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. I am pleased with him. Listen to him.' When the disciples heard the voice, they fell to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. He said, 'Stand up. Do not be afraid.' Then they looked up and saw no one but only Jesus.

When they walked down the mountain, Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the things you saw today. Wait until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 3rd Sunday of Lent

*Psalm 94*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EXODUS**

*Exodus 17:3–7*

The people were very thirsty and they complained to Moses. They said to him, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Did you bring us here so that we, our children, and our cattle, would die of thirst?’ Moses prayed to the Lord, ‘What can I do with these people? Soon they will kill me!’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take some of the leaders of Israel with you. Stand in front of your people. Take the stick you used before in the river. Go. I will stand with you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock with your stick, and water will flow from the rock. Then people can drink the water.’ Moses did as the Lord told him to do. All the people saw Moses hit the rock. The place was named Massah and Meribah because that was the place where the people of Israel grumbled and said, ‘Is the Lord really with us, or not?’

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

Come, let us praise and thank the Lord!

Let us sing with joy because God saves us.

Come, let us bow and worship him.

Because he is our God, he created us, and we are his people.

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

Listen to God.

Do not let your hearts become hard or stubborn,

Not like the people of long ago in the desert,

they saw God’s work, but they refused to believe in him.

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**



# 3rd Sunday of Lent

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 5:1–2, 5–8*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, God judged us to be good. Because of our faith in Jesus we have peace with God, and we received God's grace. And because of this grace, we can look forward to God's glory. This hope is not false, because God gives us love through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. Christ, at the right time, died for us sinners while we were still lost. It is not easy to die for another person, even for a good person. But if a person is very good, someone might (perhaps) be ready to die for that good person. Christ died for us when we were still sinners and this proves God really loves us.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

## ACCLAMATION

Lord, you saved the world. Give me the living water, so that I will never be thirsty.

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*John 4:5–42*

\* In Samaria, Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there. Jesus was tired by the journey so he sat down next to the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' The disciples of Jesus had gone to the town to buy some food. The Samaritan woman was surprised and said, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan! You want me to give you a drink?' Jews are not friends with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, 'If you really knew what God is giving you, and if you knew who I am that asks

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

you for a drink, you would quickly ask me for a drink and I would have given you living water.' The woman said, 'You have no bucket, and the well is deep. How would you get this living water? Our Father, Jacob, of long ago, gave us this well. He drank from this well himself. Also, his sons and his animals drank from this well. Are you more important than Jacob?' Jesus said, 'Any person that drinks this water will be thirsty again. But if any person drinks the water that I give, that person will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become like a spring of water flowing inside that person. That water will give eternal life.' The woman said, 'Sir, give me that living water so that I will never be thirsty again, and never have to come here to get more water from the well.' \*

Jesus told her, 'Go, find your husband and bring him here.' The woman said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right. You have had five

husbands, but the man you are living with now is not your husband. You told me the truth.'

\* The woman said, 'Now I realise you are a prophet. Our people (Samaritans) worshipped God on this mountain. But you Jews say: "People must go to Jerusalem to worship God."'

Jesus said to her: 'Believe me, soon you will worship God not on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem. You do not know the God you worship. But we Jews know the God we worship. Salvation comes from the Jews. But the time will come, really it is here now, then people with true faith will worship the Father in spirit and truth. God is spirit and we must worship him in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that the Messiah, the Christ, will come one day. And when he comes, he will tell us everything.' Jesus answered, 'I am the Messiah. I am the Christ you are talking about.'

\*

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

Then Jesus' disciples came back from town. They were surprised to see Jesus talking with the woman. But no one asked, 'Why are you talking to her? What do you want from her?' The woman put down her water jar and rushed back to town. She told the people in town: 'Come and see a man that knows everything I did. Perhaps he is the Christ?' So the people left the town and went to see Jesus.

While the woman was in town, the disciples were telling Jesus, 'Teacher, eat something!' But Jesus answered, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' So the disciples asked each other, 'Has someone already given him some food?' But Jesus said, 'My food is to obey God and do all God wants me to do. He sent me. My food is to finish his work. You know, when you finish sowing, you say, "Four more months to wait before we can begin to harvest." Well, I tell you: look around, look at the fields. The crops are ready for harvest. The man that harvests receives his

wages. He is collecting the crops for eternal life. The man that sows, and the man that harvests, can be happy together. You know, it is true that when one man sows, another man comes to harvest. I sent you to harvest, but you did not sow. Other people sowed before you. You receive the profit from their work.'

\* Many of the Samaritan people in town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had told them about Jesus. So when the Samaritan people saw Jesus, they asked him to stay with them. Jesus stayed for two days. Many more people believed because of the things Jesus said. The people said to the woman, 'At first we believed because of all you told us about Jesus. But now we believe in Jesus because of the many things he told us. We know that he is really the One that will save world.' \*

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

## 4th Sunday of Lent

### A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF SAMUEL

*1 Samuel 16:6–7, 10–13*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Bethlehem. I want you to see a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' When Samuel arrived, he saw one of Jesse's son, called Eliab. Samuel thought, 'I am sure the Lord wants this son to be king.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not choose him just because he is tall and handsome; I do not want him. God is not like people; people look at the body, face, and clothes, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse showed seven of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these men.' Samuel asked Jesse, 'Are these all your sons?' Jesse said, 'I have one more son, the youngest. He is out looking after the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Bring him here. We will not sit down to eat until I see him.' Jesse sent someone to fetch his youngest son. This boy was healthy, good-looking, with

beautiful eyes. The Lord said to Samuel, 'Yes, this is the one I want. Anoint him.' So, Samuel took the horn with oil in it and anointed the boy, David, in front of all his brothers. The spirit of the Lord came on David and stayed with him forever.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 22*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
He gives me everything I need.  
He lets me rest in green fields.  
He leads me to calm pools of fresh water to give me strength.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

# 4th Sunday of Lent

He guides me along the right way.

He is faithful.

If I walk in the dark, I should not be afraid.

Because the Lord, with his shepherd's crook (stick), will protect me.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I  
NEED.**

The Lord prepared a banquet (feast) for me.

Lord, you anointed my head with oil; my cup is full.

Goodness and kindness will be with me always.

I will live in the Lord's house for ever and ever.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I  
NEED.**

**A READING FROM ST PAUL'S  
SCROLL ↕ TO THE EPHESIANS**

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

Before you were in the dark but now you are in the light of the Lord. Be like children of light

because doing things in the light means that people can see you live in goodness, right living and truth. Try to find what the Lord wants you to do. Don't do the things that people do in the dark, but let people know that the work of darkness is not good and a waste of time. People do things in secret and they are ashamed to talk about these things. The light will show everything that people do. That is why we say:

'Wake up, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ACCLAMATION**

The Lord said, 'I am the light of the world. Any person following me will have the light of life.'

# 4th Sunday of Lent

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*John 9:1-41*

\* Jesus was walking, he saw a man born blind. \*

The disciples asked Jesus, 'Teacher, this blind man, whose sin, whose fault, made him blind? His own sin, or the sins of his parents?' Jesus answered, 'He is blind not because of his sin, not because of his parent's sin. No! He was born blind so that we will see the work of God in him.'

'While it is still daylight, we must continue doing the work of God. Soon the night will come and no one can work. But while I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' After he said this,

\* Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud. He took the mud and rubbed it on the blind man's eyes. Jesus said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.' (Siloam means 'Sent'). The blind

man went to the pool, washed, came back and he could see.

Some neighbours and people that used to see the man begging before said, 'Look, is that the blind man that used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes.' Others said, 'No, perhaps he looks like the blind man.' But the blind man himself said, 'I am the same man. I was blind before.' \*

The people asked, 'How can you now see?' The man answered, 'A man named Jesus rubbed mud on my eyes and told me to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. So I went, washed myself and now I can see.' The people asked, 'Where is Jesus?' The man replied, 'I don't know.'

\* These people brought the man to meet the Pharisees. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured the blind man, that day was the Sabbath. The Pharisees asked the man, 'How did you receive your sight?' The man answered, 'He made some mud and rubbed

## 4th Sunday of Lent

it on my eyes; I washed and now I can see.' The Pharisees said, 'This man, Jesus, cannot be from God. He broke the law of the sabbath.' But other people said, 'How can a sinner do miracles like that?' So the Jews argued and disagreed with each other. The Jewish leaders asked the blind man again, 'This man, Jesus, cured you. What do you think of him?' The man answered, 'He is a prophet.'

\*

The Jews did not believe that the man was blind before, and was now cured. They asked his parents to come. They said to the parents, 'Is this man your son that was born blind? How can he see now?' The parents answered, 'We know that this man is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he can see now, or who cured him. You ask him. He is old enough; he can explain himself!' The parents were afraid of the Jewish leaders. They knew that the Jewish leaders would punish anyone that said Jesus

was the Christ. Also the Jewish leaders would throw out from the synagogue anyone that believed in Jesus. That was why the parents said, 'You ask him. He is old enough.'

For the second time, the Jewish leaders asked the man that was born blind. They said to him, 'You must give glory to God and tell the truth. We know that the man, named Jesus, is a sinner.' The man said, 'I don't know if Jesus is a sinner, or not. But I tell you the truth: I was born blind and now I can see.' The Jewish leaders asked, 'What did Jesus do? How did he cure you?' The man answered, 'I already told you, but you won't listen. Why do you want me to explain again? Do you want to become his disciples and follow Jesus?' The Jewish leaders became angry. They swore at him and said, 'You can be a disciple of Jesus. But we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses. But this man, Jesus, we don't know where he comes from!' The man answered, 'That's strange. Jesus cured my eyes and

## 4th Sunday of Lent

you don't know where he comes from! We know that God does not listen to sinners. But God always listens to people that follow and obey Him. From the beginning of the world, no one has ever heard of anyone that cured a man born blind. If Jesus were not from God, he couldn't do any miracles.'

They asked him, 'Are you saying we are blind?' Jesus replied, 'If you were blind, then you would not be guilty. But because you say that you can see, this means you are still guilty.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

\* The Jewish leaders replied, 'Are you trying to teach us. You are a sinner from birth!' They threw him out. Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Tell me where to find him so that I can believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; I am he.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshipped Jesus. \*

Jesus said, 'I came into this world to judge, so that blind people can see, and that the people with good sight will become blind.' Some of the Pharisees standing near Jesus heard what he said.



# 5th Sunday of Lent

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EZEKIEL

*Ezekiel 37:12–14*

The Lord says this, 'I will open your graves. I will raise you from your graves. I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, because I bring you out of your graves. I will put my spirit in you and you will become alive again. I will lead you back to your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I am the Lord, because I have done as I promised.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 129*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS  
MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.**

### THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

Lord, my prayer rises up to you.  
From the depth of my heart I  
express my prayer;  
Look! Listen to me!

### THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

Lord, if you punish us because of  
our guilt,

No one would continue to live.

But you, Lord, you forgive us.

Because of this, we respect you.

### THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

I wait for the Lord to help me.

I trust him.

I wait as (same) people wait for  
the sun to come up.

### THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

The Lord is merciful.

He will save us.

Israel, trust the Lord.

The Lord will forgive us all our  
sins.

### THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇌ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 8:8–11*

People interested only in things  
not spiritual can never make God  
happy. But you are not like them;  
you are interested in spiritual  
things because the Spirit of God

# 5th Sunday of Lent

lives in you. Any person without the Spirit of Christ inside them does not belong to God. Because of sin, your body feels as if it is dead, but if Christ is within you, then your spirit is alive, and Christ has justified you (made you right) with God. God raised Jesus from death, and this same Spirit of God lives in you, so God will give life to your bodies.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## ACCLAMATION

The Lord said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Any person that believes in me (Jesus) will never die.'

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*John 11:1-45*

A man named Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Lazarus

was ill. Mary was the same woman that had rubbed ointment on the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair.

\* The two sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, Lazarus your friend is ill.' After Jesus received this message, he said to his disciples, 'This illness will not end with death but in God's glory. Through Lazarus' illness, the Son of God will receive glory.'

Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. But after Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' \*

The disciples said, 'Rabbi, not long ago the Jews in Judaea tried to kill you with stones. Now you want to go back there?' Jesus answered, 'There are twelve hours of daylight, right? If a person walks in the day, they will not fall because they can see in the daylight. But if they walk at night, they will fall because there is no

## 5th Sunday of Lent

light to help them see.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, but I will go and wake him.’ The disciples said, ‘Lord, if he is resting, he will get better soon.’ But Jesus meant that Lazarus was dead, the disciples thought Jesus meant Lazarus was sleeping. So Jesus explained, ‘Lazarus is dead. I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. Let us go.’ Thomas, also named the Twin, said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go with Jesus, then we can die with him.’

\* Jesus arrived in Bethany, and found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb four days. Bethany is about two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews came to see Martha and Mary to comfort them because of their brother’s death. Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed sitting at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will

give you anything you ask.’ Jesus said, ‘Your brother will rise to life.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise to life in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Any person that believes in me will have life after death. And the person that lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ Martha said, ‘Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, yet come into the world.’ \*

After Martha said these words, she went back to her sister Mary and quietly told her, ‘The Lord is here. He wants to see you.’ Mary heard this, got up quickly and went to meet Jesus. Jesus had not yet come into the village. He was still at the place where Martha met him. The Jews with Mary in the house, comforting her, saw Mary get up and go out; they followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus. She saw Jesus, she knelt in front of him

## 5th Sunday of Lent

and said, 'Lord, if you were here, my brother would not have died.'

\* Jesus saw Mary crying, and the Jews also crying; Jesus was upset and felt deep sorrow in his heart. Jesus said, 'Where have you put Lazarus?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. The Jews said, 'Look, Jesus truly loved Lazarus!' But others said, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man and cured him. Why could he not stop Lazarus dying?' Still deeply upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering it. Jesus said, 'Move away the stone.' Martha said, 'Lord, Lazarus has been buried four days. The smell will be bad.' Jesus said, 'Remember what I told you, that if you believe you will see God's glory?' So they moved away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know that you always listen to me. But I say this for the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me.'

After he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out. His hands and his feet were tied with strips of cloth and a cloth covered his face. Jesus said to the people, 'Remove (take off) the cloths and let him go free.'

Many of the Jews that had come to visit Mary, saw what had happened and they believed in Jesus. \*

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 21:1–11*

Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem. They stopped near Bethphage on the hill named Mount of Olives. Jesus said to two disciples, 'Go into the village, you will find a donkey and a colt (young donkey), both will be tied. You untie them and bring them here. If anybody asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell that person: 'The Master needs them. When he finishes, he will send them back here.'" This happened to follow a prophecy said a long time ago:

'Tell the city of Zion. Now your king comes to you. He is humble and he rides on a donkey. He rides on a young donkey, born from a work animal.'

So the disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the mother donkey and the young donkey. They put their coats over the donkeys and Jesus sat on them. Many people spread their coats on the road. Other

people cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Some people walked in front of Jesus. Others walked behind Jesus. All the people shouted:

'Hosanna to the Son of David! Bless him that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, all the people were excited. They asked, 'Who is this man?' Some people replied, 'This man is Jesus, the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 50:4–7*

The Lord has given me language. So I will know what to say to those that are tired and worn-out. Every morning the Lord wakes me and teaches me how to listen. The Lord opened my mind. I did not

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

object nor turn away. I let people whip my back. I let people pull my beard. They swore and insulted me, but I did not turn away from them nor cover my face. They spat in my face. The Lord helps me: people's insults (swearing/criticism) cannot hurt me. I will be strong, firm. I know I will not be ashamed of myself.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

People, like dogs, are all around me.

Evil people are ready to attack me like a lion.

They bite and make holes in my hands and feet.

I can see my bones!

**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY DID YOU ABANDON (LEAVE) ME?**

They gamble for my clothes.

O Lord, don't leave me, come quickly to help me.

I will tell people about you.

I will praise you.

**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY DID YOU ABANDON ME?**

*Psalm 21*

RESPONSE: **MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY DID YOU ABANDON (LEAVE) ME?**

**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY DID YOU ABANDON (LEAVE) ME?**

All people that see me, mock me. They shake their head and say, 'You trusted in the Lord. Why does God not save you?'

**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY DID YOU ABANDON (LEAVE) ME?**

**A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

*Philippians 2:6-11*

Jesus Christ was holy. Jesus was God but he gave up his power as God to become the most humble of all people. He became a slave. He became human the same as all people, and he lived as a man. He became so humble that he accepted death, death on a cross. But God raised him to the highest

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

heaven. God gave him the name that is more important than all other names. So everybody, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, will kneel down and honour the name of Jesus. All will praise God the Father and say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD** **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ACCLAMATION**

Christ was humble and he accepted death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name that is above all other names.

[SHORT FORM read between \* \*]

N - Narrator/Story-teller

† - Jesus Christ

P - People/Person

## **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 26:14 – 27:66*

N One of the twelve apostles, a man named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

P ‘How much will you give me if I bring Jesus to you?’

N The chief priests gave Judas 30 silver coins. Then Judas began to plan how to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples asked Jesus,

P ‘Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?’

N Jesus replied,

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- † 'Go into the city and see a man I know. Tell him: "The Master said the time is coming soon. He wants to use your house to eat the Passover meal with his disciples."'
- N The disciples did what Jesus told them and they prepared the Passover meal.
- In the evening Jesus sat at table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, Jesus said,
- † 'I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.'
- N The disciples were upset, each one asked him,
- P 'Lord, do you mean me?'
- N Jesus said,
- † 'The man that dips his hand into the same bowl with me, that person will betray me. The Son of Man will die, like the scriptures (Bible) said he would, but it will be terrible for that man to betray the Son of Man. Better for that man if he had never been born!'
- N Judas, the man that would betray Jesus, asked,
- P 'Not me, Lord?'
- N Jesus answered,
- † 'You said it.'
- N When they were eating, Jesus took some bread. Jesus thanked God for the bread and broke it. He gave the bread to his disciples and said,
- † 'Take and eat. This is my body.'
- N Then Jesus took a cup of wine. Jesus thanked God for the wine and gave it to his disciples saying,
- † 'Drink, all of you. This is my blood, the blood of the covenant (God's promise). This blood will be poured out for many people, for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you the truth: I will not drink this



## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- wine again until the day I drink the new wine with you in my Father's kingdom.'
- N Then they all sang the psalms. After that they went to the Mount of Olives. Jesus told his disciples,
- † 'Tonight, you will lose faith in me. The scriptures (Bible) say, "I will kill the shepherd and the sheep will run away." But after my resurrection I will go to Galilee and wait for you.'
- N Peter said,
- P 'All may lose faith in you, but I will never lose faith.'
- N Jesus answered,
- † 'I tell you the truth. Three times tonight, you will say you don't know me. This will happen before the cock crows (bird sings).'
- N Peter said to Jesus,
- P 'I will never betray you. I will die with you!'
- N All the other disciples said the same thing.
- Then Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus said to his disciples,
- † 'Stay here and I will go there to pray.'
- N Jesus told Peter, and the two brothers, James and John, to go with him. Jesus became very sad and very worried. Jesus told them,
- † 'My soul is full of sorrow. Wait here, stay awake with me.'
- N Jesus walked a little further from them. He fell, face on the ground and prayed,
- † 'My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me! But I will do what you want, not what I want.'
- N Jesus came back to the three disciples and found them asleep. Jesus said to Peter,
- † 'Could you not stay awake for one hour with me? You

## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

should be awake and praying that you will not fail. Your spirit is eager, but your body is weak.'

N A second time, Jesus went back and prayed,

† 'My Father, if this cup of suffering cannot be taken away without me drinking it, then I will do what you want.'

N Jesus came back and found the disciples heavily asleep. Jesus left them there, went and again said the same prayer. Then Jesus came back to the three disciples and he said to them,

† 'You can carry on sleeping and resting. Things are ready now, someone will betray the Son of Man to sinful people. Get up! Let us go! The man that will betray me is coming now.'

N When Jesus was still talking, Judas, one of the twelve apostles, arrived. He came with a large crowd of men

with swords and clubs. They were sent by the chief priests and the Jewish leaders. Judas had already with the men; he told them,

P 'The man I kiss is Jesus. You arrest him.'

N Judas went straight to Jesus and said,

P 'Peace be with you, Rabbi.'

N And Judas kissed Jesus. Jesus said to him,

† 'My friend, do what you came here for.'

N The crowd of men came, grabbed Jesus and arrested him. When that happened, one of Jesus' disciples pulled out his sword and hit at the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus said,

† 'Put back your sword. Any person that uses a sword will be killed by the sword. You know that if I asked my Father he would give me more than twelve armies of angels to

## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

defend me. But the scriptures (Bible) say that this is the way death will happen.'

N Then Jesus said to the crowd of men,

† 'Am I a thief, that you came to arrest me with swords and clubs? Every day I sat in the Temple teaching and you never arrested me.'

N All this happened to follow what the prophets wrote about in the scriptures (Bible). Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

The men that arrested Jesus brought him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. The scribes (writers) and Jewish leaders were waiting there. Peter followed Jesus at a distance, and when he arrived at the high priest's house, he went into the yard. He sat with the guards to see what would happen.

The chief priests and the Jewish council were looking

for something against Jesus. They wanted anything, even lies so that they could condemn Jesus to death. Some people came, gave false witness and told lies about Jesus. But the Jewish council could find no real reason to condemn Jesus. Then two men came and said,

P 'This man, Jesus, said, "I have power to destroy God's Temple and build it again in three days."

N The high priest stood up and said to Jesus,

P 'These men have said things against you. What do you say about that?'

N But Jesus was quiet and said nothing. Again the high priest said to him,

P 'In the name of God, you are now under oath: tell us, are you the Christ, the Son of God?'

N Jesus answered,

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- † 'You say I am. And I tell you, that in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God. And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven.'
- N When the high priest heard this, he was furious and tore his clothes. He said,
- P 'This man has blasphemed (terrible swearing against God). We don't need any more witnesses now. We have heard what he said. What do you think?'
- N They all said,
- P 'He must die.'
- N Then they spat in Jesus' face and with their fists they hit him. Others slapped Jesus and said,
- P 'Play the prophet, Christ! Tell us who hit you!'
- N Peter was sitting outside in the yard. A servant girl came to Peter and said,
- P 'You were with Jesus, the man from Galilee.'
- N But Peter denied (said no) in front of all the people and said,
- P 'I don't know what you are talking about.'
- N Peter went to the gate and another servant girl saw him. The girl said to the people,
- P 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.'
- N Again Peter denied (said no). He swore to God and said,
- P 'I do not know the man.'
- N Later, the people standing there said to Peter,
- P 'You are one of Jesus' disciples. We can tell by listening to your voice, your accent.'
- N Then Peter got angry and swore saying,
- P 'I do not know this man, Jesus.'

## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

N Straight after Peter said this, the cock crew (bird sang). Peter heard the cock and remembered that Jesus had said, 'Before the cock sings you will say three times that you do not know me.' Peter went outside, he was very upset and he wept (cried) a lot.

Early the next morning, all the chief priests and the Jewish leaders came to a meeting to plan how to condemn Jesus to death. They tied Jesus with ropes. Then they led Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor.

When Judas heard that Jesus was condemned to death, he was filled with sorrow. He went to the chief priests and Jewish leaders to give back the thirty silver coins and said,

P 'I have sinned. I have betrayed a good man.'

N They replied,

P 'We don't care. That's your problem.'

N So Judas threw down the money in the Temple, ran away and hanged himself. The chief priests collected the silver coins and said,

P 'This is blood money. It is against the Law to keep it.'

N They discussed the problem and decided to use the money to buy a field named the Potter's Field. This field is used as a cemetery for foreigners. That is why today the field is also known as the 'Field of Blood'. What the prophet Jeremiah had said came true; he wrote: 'They took the thirty silver coins, the money the people of Israel had agreed to pay for the life of the Chosen One. And they used the money to buy the potter's field. This is what the Lord told me (Jeremiah).'

\* Jesus was brought to stand in front of Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate questioned him,

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- P 'Are you the king of the Jews?'
- N Jesus answered,  
+ 'You say so.'
- N Then the chief priests and the Jewish leaders accused him, but Jesus said nothing. Pilate said to Jesus,
- P 'You hear all these people accusing you.'
- N But again, Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed (surprised).
- N Every year at the Passover feast, the governor would free one prisoner chosen by the people. At that time there was a well-known wicked man in prison named Barabbas. Then the crowd came together and Pilate asked them,
- P 'Which man do you want me to free: Barabbas, or Jesus named the Christ?'
- N Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders gave Jesus to him because they were jealous of Jesus. Pilate sat in the Judgement chair. His wife sent him a message,
- P 'Do nothing with that man. I have been upset by a bad dream I had about Jesus.'
- N The chief priests and the Jewish leaders persuaded the crowd telling them it was better to free Barabbas and to condemn Jesus to death. Then Pilate asked the crowd,
- P 'Which of the men, Barabbas or Jesus, do you want me to free?'
- N They said,
- P 'Barabbas.'
- N Pilate asked,
- P 'What should I do with Jesus named the Christ?'
- N They all said,
- P 'Crucify him!'
- N Pilate asked,
- P 'Why? He has done nothing wrong.'

## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

N But all the people shouted louder,

P 'Crucify him!'

N Pilate realised it was no use trying to explain to the people. He became worried that the people would make trouble and rebel. So he washed his hands in water in front of the crowd. Pilate said,

P 'I have nothing to do with Jesus' blood. He is your responsibility.'

N Everybody in the crowd shouted together,

P 'We will be responsible for his death, blame us and our children!'

N Then Pilate freed Barabbas. He ordered Jesus to be whipped first before crucifixion. The soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (square) of the Roman governor. All the soldiers came around Jesus. They tore off his clothes and put a red robe on him. They made

thorns into a crown and put it on Jesus' head. They put a reed (stick) in his right hand. Then, they knelt in front of him, and mocked him, saying,

P 'Hail, king of the Jews!'

N They spat at him. They took the reed (stick) and hit his head. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the red robe and gave back the old clothes. They led him away to crucify him.

On the way, the soldiers saw a man named Simon, from Cyrene. They forced him to help carry the cross for Jesus. Then they arrived at a place called Golgotha, that means, 'The Place of the Skull'. The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it, but refused to drink. When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus, they gambled to see who could win Jesus' clothes. Then they sat there and watched Jesus. On top of the cross was

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

written 'THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.' At the same time, two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on the right, and one on the left. People passing by shook their heads and mocked Jesus saying:

P 'You said you would destroy the Temple and in three days build it again! Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross!'

N The chief priests, with the scribes (writers) and the Jewish leaders, also mocked Jesus, saying,

P 'Jesus saved other people, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted God. Now let God save Jesus, because he did say, "I am the Son of God!"'

N The robbers crucified with Jesus also mocked. At the 6th hour (12 noon) the whole land became dark for three

hours. At about 9th hour, three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

† 'Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani?'

N That means,

† 'My God, my God, why did you abandon (leave) me?'

N Some people standing there heard Jesus. They said,

P 'He is shouting to Elijah!'

N Someone quickly went to get a sponge. He dipped it in cheap vinegar-wine and put it on a stick, gave it to Jesus to drink. The other people said,

P 'Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.'

N But Jesus, shouted again in a loud voice, gave up his spirit and died.

*SILENCE*

Wait/kneel for one minute



## Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

N When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two, from top to bottom. There was an earthquake; the rocks cracked and split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men and women rose from the dead. After Jesus' resurrection, these bodies came out from their tombs and went into the Holy City, and many people saw them. The Roman officer and the other soldiers guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and all the things that happened. They were terrified and said,

P 'Truly this man was a Son of God!'

N Many women, near the cross, were watching. They were the women, followers of Jesus from Galilee and they had looked after him. These included Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of James and John, Zebedee's sons, were also there.

When it was evening, a rich man named Joseph from Arimathaea, arrived. He himself was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered the soldiers to give the body to Joseph. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean cloth and laid Jesus' body in his own tomb, a tomb recently cut out of a rock. Joseph rolled a large heavy stone to cover the tomb and went away. Mary of Magdala and the other Mary sat there, watching near the tomb.

The next day, after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. They said,

P 'We remember that while Jesus was alive, he said, "After three days I will rise again." Tell your soldiers to guard the tomb, because Jesus' friends may come and steal the dead body and tell the people: "Jesus has risen from the

# Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

dead." We are worried that this lie will be worse than what happened before.'

N Pilate said to them,

P 'You can have the soldiers. Go and guard the tomb as best as you can.'

N So they went and guarded the tomb. \*

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Chrism Mass

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 61:1–3, 6, 8–9*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me because the Lord anointed me. The Lord chose me to go and tell the Good News to poor people; to heal broken hearts; to tell those suffering from oppression that they are now free; to those imprisoned freedom; to proclaim the Lord's year of favour; to comfort those that mourn; to take away ashes and give them a garland (flowers around neck); to take away their sadness and give them the oil of happiness; to take away their despair (depression) so that they can praise the Lord.

You will be named 'priests of the Lord'; people will say you are 'servants of our God'.

The Lord says, 'I will give them reward and make an eternal covenant (promise) with them.'

These people and their future people will be famous all over the world. All people that see them

will say they are a people chosen and blessed by God.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 88*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOREVER.**

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOREVER.**

God said: I chose David my servant,

and I anointed him with my holy oil.

I will always be with him to protect him.

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOREVER.**

My truth and my love will be with David.

He (David) will say to me: 'You are my father,

my God, the rock that saves me.'

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOREVER.**

# Chrism Mass

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ OF REVELATION**

*Revelation 1:5–8*

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. He was the First to rise from death. He is the Ruler of all the kings in the world. He loves us, and through his blood and his death, he took away our sins. He made us kings and priests to serve his God and Father. To Jesus Christ be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look! He (Jesus) is coming on the clouds. Everybody will see him, including those that pierced (put spear through) him. All people on earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. The Lord God Almighty says, 'I am the Alpha, the First. I am the Omega, the Last.' Yes, He (God) is, He was and He will come again!

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ACCLAMATION**

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST,  
KING OF ETERNAL GLORY.**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me; the Lord chose me to go and tell the Good News to poor people.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST,  
KING OF ETERNAL GLORY.**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

*Luke 4:16–21*

Jesus came to Nazara, the place he was brought up. On the sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read and someone gave him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus rolled open the scroll and found the quote he wanted to read:

'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because the Lord anointed me. The Lord chose me to go and tell the Good News to poor people; to tell those imprisoned that they are free; to tell blind people that they can

# Chrism Mass

now see, to tell those in despair that they are free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.'

Jesus rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the assistant (servant), and sat down. Everybody in the synagogue looked at him. Then Jesus began to speak to them, 'This writing from the Scripture (Bible) is happening today, the same time as you listen.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# The Lord's Supper

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EXODUS

*Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14*

When Moses and Aaron were in Egypt, the Lord said to them, 'You must tell all the people:

"This month will be the first month of the year for you. On the tenth day of this month, each man must take an animal, one for each family. If his family is too small to eat an animal, they must share with their neighbour. It must be a sheep or goat, one year old, male (boy) and healthy. You should keep the animal until the 14th day of the month. On that day, all the people of the community of Israel must kill it before night. You must take the same blood and put it on the doorposts and above the doors of your house.

That night, you must roast the meat over the fire and eat all of the meat. It must be eaten with unleavened bread (flat bread made without yeast) and bitter herbs. You must eat it quickly, with sandals on your feet, a staff

in your hand, ready to travel. It is a passover in honour of the Lord.

That night I will go through Egypt and kill each first-born boy and animal. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts of your house will be a sign. When I see it I will pass over your house and I will not kill. You must remember this day forever and you will celebrate it as a feast to honour the Lord."

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 115*

RESPONSE: **THE CUP THAT WE BLESS IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

## THE CUP THAT WE BLESS IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

How can I thank the Lord?  
God has been good to me.  
I will offer him the cup of salvation.

I will pray to the Lord.

**THE CUP THAT WE BLESS IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

# The Lord's Supper

The death of good faithful people is special to the Lord.

I am your servant, Lord, you freed me.

I will give you a thanksgiving sacrifice.

I will pray to the Lord and

I will keep my promises always.

**THE CUP THAT WE BLESS IS  
THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE CORINTHIANS**

*1 Corinthians 11:23–26*

I received this teaching from the Lord. Now, I give you this teaching: the night Jesus was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and thanked God. He broke the bread and said, 'This is my body, for you. Do this to remember me.'

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, 'This cup is the new covenant (promise) in my blood. Every time you drink this cup, remember me.'

So, until the Lord comes again, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord Jesus.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ACCLAMATION**

Jesus said, 'Love one another the same as I have loved you.'

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 13:1–15*

The day before the feast of the Jewish Passover, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave the world and to go to his Father. Jesus had always loved his people in the world. Now Jesus wanted to show that his love was perfect.

Jesus and his disciples were having supper. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that

# The Lord's Supper

the Father had given everything to him, and that he himself came from God, and that he will return (go back) to God his Father. Jesus stood up and took off his robe. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel.

Jesus came to Simon Peter, and Peter said, 'Lord, why wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment, you don't know what I'm doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said, 'Never! You will never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If you do not let me wash you, then you cannot be my disciple.' Simon Peter said, 'Lord! Wash my feet, and wash my hands, and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'When people have a bath, they have no need to wash again, they are clean. All of you are clean, but one of you is not.' Jesus knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'All of you are clean, but one of you is not clean.'

When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his robe and sat down at the table. He asked his disciples, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me "Lord" and "Teacher". You are right, because I am your Lord and Teacher. But I have washed your feet, like a servant. So, you too should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**



# Good Friday

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12*

The Lord said, 'Look at my servant. He will be successful. He will be very important and highly honoured.

But many people will be shocked when they see him. He will look terrible, he will be so badly bruised that he will not look human. The crowds will be amazed (surprised), and kings will stand open-mouthed when they see something they've never heard or seen before. People will say, "Who could believe what we have seen and heard, who could believe what the Lord has shown us?"

He grew up like a small plant, spreading roots in dry land. We saw him - no beauty, nothing special. Nothing good to our eyes. He looked terrible, we rejected him. He suffered, he is sad. People will not look at him, they will turn away and ignore him.

But he took away our sufferings, he took away our pain. He accepted the pain for us. We thought God punished him. He was wounded (hurt) because of our faults, crushed because of our sins. His punishment brings peace. Through his sufferings, we are healed (made better). Each of us was like a sheep that is lost, each of us trying to find our way. But the Lord accepted the punishment, the punishment that we should have because of our sins. The Lord is patient and humble. He never opened his mouth. He is like a sheep that is taken to be killed, he never said a word.

The men arrested him by force and by law. No one cared about him. He was taken away from the living people. Because of our faults, he was condemned to death. He was buried with wicked and rich people, but he had done nothing wrong and he never told lies. The Lord let him suffer so that his death would be the sacrifice that brings us forgiveness. But my servant will see his people. He will

# Good Friday

have a long life. Through him, what the Lord wants will happen.

When his suffering is over (finished), he will see light and will be happy and peaceful. Through his sufferings, my servant will shoulder (carry on his shoulders) the faults (sins) of many people and free them from their sins.

Because he gave his life for us, because he has taken away our faults, because he prays for us sinners; I (the Lord) will honour him. I will make him a great man among his people.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 30*

RESPONSE: **FATHER, MY SPIRIT I GIVE TO YOU.**

### **FATHER, MY SPIRIT I GIVE TO YOU.**

Lord, you are my defence.  
I will never be ashamed.  
In your justice, save me.  
I will give you my spirit.

### **FATHER, MY SPIRIT I GIVE TO YOU.**

When my enemies and my friends see me in the street, they turn away from me.

I am like a dead man, people forget me.

But I say: 'You are my God, I trust you.'

My life is in your hands.

### **FATHER, MY SPIRIT I GIVE TO YOU.**

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ TO THE HEBREWS

*Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9*

Jesus, the Son of God, is our great high priest. He has gone to heaven. We must never give up our faith. This high priest, Jesus, really understands and feels our weaknesses because he had temptations the same as us but he never sinned. So, let us have confidence. We can approach God's throne, and we will receive mercy from God and find grace when we need help.

# Good Friday

While Jesus was alive on earth, he prayed to God and asked for help. God had the power to save Jesus from death. Jesus prayed aloud, and also prayed with silent tears. And because Jesus was so humble, God heard his prayers. Jesus was God's Son but he learnt to obey through suffering. And when Jesus was made perfect, all that obey him receive eternal salvation.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## ACCLAMATION

Christ was humble and he accepted death, death on a cross. But God raised him to life.

N Narrative  
† Jesus Christ  
P People

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*John 18:1 – 19:42*

N Jesus went through the valley of Kedron with his disciples and they went into the garden there. Judas knew the place well because Jesus met his disciples in the garden many times. Judas brought a group of soldiers and Temple guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They all had lamps and swords. Jesus knew that everything would happen to him, so Jesus approached them and said,

† 'Who are you looking for?'

N They answered,

P 'We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth.'

N Jesus said,

# Good Friday

† 'I am Jesus from Nazareth.'

N Judas stood with the group of men. When Jesus said, 'I am Jesus from Nazareth', the men were surprised, and moved back and fell to the ground. Jesus asked a second time,

† 'Who are you looking for?'

N They said,

P 'Jesus from Nazareth.'

N Jesus replied,

† 'I have already told you I am Jesus from Nazareth. If you want me, let my friends go free.'

N This happened exactly as Jesus had said when he prayed to his father, 'You gave me disciples and I have not lost one of them.'

Simon Peter had a sword, he took it out and hit the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

† 'Put it back! Do you want to stop me drinking the cup of suffering that the Father has given me?'

N The soldiers, the captain and the Jewish Temple guards arrested Jesus. They tied him and brought him, first to Annas, because Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest that year. Caiaphas had already told the Jews, 'It is better for one man to die for the people.'

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. This other disciple knew the high priest. This disciple went to the high priest's palace with Peter. But Peter waited outside the door. The other disciple, the one that knew the high priest, went out and spoke to the woman guarding the door and brought Peter into the yard. The woman guarding the door said to Peter,

# Good Friday

- P 'Are you a disciple of Jesus'
- N Peter answered,
- P 'I am not.'
- N It was cold, so the servants and the guards made a fire. They were standing around the fire, keeping warm. Peter stood near the fire with the others.
- The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus said,
- † 'I talked openly to everybody. I always taught in the Temple where the Jews meet. I have said nothing in secret. So why ask me? Ask the people, they heard me. They know what I said.'
- N When Jesus said that, one of the guards slapped Jesus' face, saying,
- P 'You should not talk to the chief priest like that!'
- N Jesus replied,
- † 'If there is something wrong with what I said, tell me. But if there is nothing wrong with what I said, why slap me?'
- N Then Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest. Jesus was still tied.
- Simon Peter still stood outside, trying to keep warm. Someone said to him,
- P 'Are you a disciple of Jesus?'
- N Peter denied (said no) saying,
- P 'I am not.'
- N One of the servants of the high priest was there. This servant was a relative of the other servant, the same person that Peter had cut the ear off. This servant said to Peter,
- P 'I saw you in the garden with Jesus?'
- N Again Peter denied (said no), and straight away a cock crew (bird sang).

# Good Friday

Early in the morning, the Jews brought Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. The Jews did not go into the Roman governor's palace because of their Jewish laws. They wanted to keep themselves clean to eat the passover. So Pilate went outside to see them and said,

P 'What has this man, Jesus, done wrong?'

N The Jews answered,

P 'Jesus is a bad person, a criminal (thief, trouble-maker), that is why we brought him here for you.'

N Pilate said,

P 'You, Jews, take him yourselves. Judge him with your own law.'

N The Jews answered,

P 'Because of your Roman law, we are not allowed to punish Jesus by death.'

N This happened exactly as Jesus had said about the way he would die.

Pilate went inside the Praetorium (Roman governor's palace) and Pilate asked Jesus,

P 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

N Jesus replied,

† 'Do you ask me this question because you yourself really want to know, or because other people have already told you?'

N Pilate said,

P 'Am I a Jew? No! Your people, the Jews, brought you here. Why? What have you done?'

N Jesus said,

† 'My kingdom is not in this world. If my kingdom was in this world, my disciples would have fought and protected me to stop the Jewish leaders seizing (arresting) me. No, my

# Good Friday

kingdom does not belong to this world.'

N Pilate said,

P 'So, are you a king then?'

N Jesus replied,

† 'As you said; yes, I am a king. I was born to be a king. I came into the world to give witness, to tell people about the truth. Any person that believes the truth will think carefully about what I said.'

N Pilate said,

P 'Truth? What is truth?'

N Pilate went outside and said to the Jews,

P 'I find nothing wrong with Jesus. But following your tradition, I will free one prisoner at the time of the Passover. So would you like me to free this man, Jesus, the king of the Jews?'

N Everybody shouted,

P 'No, not Jesus. Free Barabbas!'

N Barabbas was a thief.

Pilate told the soldiers to take Jesus and whip him. The soldiers made a crown from thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. They slapped Jesus' face and mocked him,

P 'Hail, king of the Jews!'

N Pilate went outside again and said to the Jews,

P 'Look, I will bring Jesus here for you to see him, because I find nothing wrong with him.'

N The soldiers brought Jesus outside with the crown of thorns and dressed in the purple robe. Pilate said,

P 'Look at Jesus!'

N When the chief priests and the Temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted,

P 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

N Pilate said,

# Good Friday

P 'You take Jesus and crucify him yourselves. I find nothing wrong with him.'

N The Jews said,

P 'We have a Law. Our Jewish law says, that if any person says he is the Son of God, he should die.'

N When Pilate heard what the Jews said, he became afraid. Pilate went back inside the palace and said to Jesus,

P 'Where do you come from?'

N But Jesus said nothing. So Pilate said to him,

P 'Why are you refusing to speak to me? You know I have the power to free you and I also have the power to crucify you.'

N Jesus replied,

† 'You have power over me only because God gave the power. That is why the person that betrayed me is more guilty.'

N Now Pilate really wanted to free Jesus, but the Jews shouted,

P 'If any person makes himself a king, he is against Caesar. So if you let Jesus go free, you are not really a friend of Caesar!'

N When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus outside. Pilate sat on the chair of Judgement in the place called 'Stone Pavement' (in Jewish language, 'Gabbatha'). Now it was the Passover Preparation Day, almost the 6th hour (12 noon). Pilate said to the Jews,

P 'Here is your king!'

N The Jews shouted,

P 'Take him away! Kill him! Crucify him!'

N Pilate said,

P 'Do you want me to crucify your king?'

N The chief priests answered,



# Good Friday

P 'We have no king, only Caesar.'

N So in the end, Pilate gave Jesus to the Jews to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus and gave him a cross to carry. Jesus carried the cross all the way out of the city to the place of the skull (in Jewish language, named 'Golgotha'). The soldiers crucified Jesus with two thieves, one on each side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a notice and put it at the top of the cross. The words said: 'JESUS FROM NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS.' Many Jews saw this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The writing was in three different languages: Jewish, Latin and Greek. The Jewish leaders said to Pilate,

P 'You should not write "King of the Jews", but write "This man said: I am the King of the Jews."'

N Pilate replied,

P 'What I have written, I will not change.'

N When the soldiers finished crucifying Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided his clothes between the four soldiers. But Jesus' tunic (clothes) was specially made in one piece. So the soldiers said to each other,

P 'We should not tear this. We will throw dice to decide who will keep it.'

N This happened exactly as written in the scriptures (Bible):

'They shared my clothes and they threw dice for my clothes.' This is exactly what the soldiers did.

Near the cross, Jesus' mother stood with her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple (John) that he loved. Jesus said to his mother,

# Good Friday

† 'Woman, this (John) is your son.'

N Then Jesus said to the disciple (John),

† 'This is your mother.'

N After this, the disciple (John) took Jesus' mother to live in his home.

Now, Jesus knew that everything was finished. The scriptures (Bible) said that Jesus would be thirsty, so Jesus said,

† 'I am thirsty.'

N Near the cross there was a jar of vinegar (sour wine). So the soldiers put a sponge on a stick and gave it to Jesus. Jesus tasted the vinegar, then he said,

† 'It is finished.'

N Jesus bowed his head and died.

*SILENCE*

Wait/kneel for one minute

That day was Preparation Day. The next day was the Sabbath - a special holy day - and the Jewish laws did not allow bodies to be left on the cross. So the Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the men on the cross and to bury the dead bodies. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and then the second man, but when they came to Jesus, they realised he was already dead. The soldiers did not break his legs, but with a spear one soldier pierced Jesus' side. Straight away, blood and water flowed out. The disciple (John) saw this - he witnessed everything and he knows he tells the truth. He writes this so that you can believe also. This happened exactly as written in the scriptures (Bible):

'Not one of his bones will be broken.'

Also, 'People will look at the man with his side pierced.'

# Good Friday

Later, a man named Joseph from Arimathaea came to Pilate. Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus because he was afraid of the Jews. He asked Pilate to let him take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph took the body. Nicodemus came as well - the same person that went to see Jesus at night - and he brought a 100 lbs mixture of special oils and myrrh. The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it with linen cloths and special oils to follow the Jewish way of burial. Near the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden there was a new tomb not yet used. Because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near, they put Jesus' body there.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Easter Vigil

Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our Easter celebration. Let us now respectfully receive the Word of God. This story tells the history of God saving his people, and at the right time, God sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. Through this celebration tonight may God continue to save us and free us from our sins.

[SHORT FORM read between \* \*]

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF GENESIS

*Genesis 1:1 – 2:2*

\* In the beginning God created heaven and earth. \* At first, there was nothing. There was darkness over the earth. God's spirit moved over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light,' and light began to shine. God saw the light was good. God divided light from darkness. God named the light 'day', and he named the darkness 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be something to divide the waters in two.' And so God made the sky to divide

the water under and above. God named the sky 'heaven.' Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the water under the heaven come together in one place, so that dry land will appear.' And it happened. God named the dry land 'earth', and the water 'sea'. God was pleased with everything he saw.

God said, 'Let the earth grow plants and trees, those that give seed, and those that give fruit.' And it happened. The earth grew many different kinds of trees and plants, with different kinds of seed and fruit. God was pleased with everything he saw. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will show the days, the years and the feasts. These lights in the sky will shine on the earth.' And it happened. God made two great lights: the sun to give light during the day, and the moon to give light at night. God

# Easter Vigil

also made the stars. God put them in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule the day and night, and to separate the day and night. God was pleased with everything he saw. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters (seas) be filled with many living things and the sky filled with birds to fly over the earth.' And it happened. God made great sea fish and many living things that live in the sea. God made all kinds of birds. God was pleased with everything he saw. He blessed them all. God told them to reproduce (make babies, grow and spread) and fill the sea. God told the birds to make more birds to fly over the earth. Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth make many kinds of living animals: cattle (cow), reptiles (crocodiles, snakes) and wild beasts.' And it happened. God made all kinds of wild beasts, cattle and reptiles.

God was pleased with everything he saw.

\* God said, 'Let us make humans in our own image (same copy), like ourselves. They will have power over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl on the earth.' God created man in the image (copy) of himself. God created man like himself, he created male (man) and female (woman). God blessed them and said to them, 'Have many children so that there will be more people on the earth. Fill the earth and control it. Be masters (boss) over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky and over all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'Look, I give you all the trees and plants that give you seeds and fruits as food for you. I give leaves from plants and trees as food for all the wild beasts, birds of the sky and all living reptiles on the earth.' And it happened. God saw that everything he had made was

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good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Heaven and earth were finished and everything was beautifully made. On the seventh day God finished working. He rested from his work on the seventh day. \*

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalm 32*

**RESPONSE: THE LORD FILLS THE EARTH WITH HIS LOVE.**

## **THE LORD FILLS THE EARTH WITH HIS LOVE.**

The word of the Lord is always true.

We trust in his work.

The Lord loves justice and right. The Lord fills the earth with his love.

## **THE LORD FILLS THE EARTH WITH HIS LOVE.**

The heavens were made by God's word.

All the stars were made by his breath.

God gathered the water in the sea.

He filled the deep sea.

## **THE LORD FILLS THE EARTH WITH HIS LOVE.**

God looks down from heaven, He sees all his people.

The people are blessed because God is their Lord.

We trust the Lord.

## **THE LORD FILLS THE EARTH WITH HIS LOVE.**

### **PRAYER** (priest)

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty. Help us now to see the wonders of your love because you saved us through the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, the One that lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

[SHORT FORM read between \* \*]

### **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF GENESIS**

*Genesis 22:1–18*

\* God tested Abraham. He said, 'Abraham, take your only son, Isaac, the one you love, and go to

# Easter Vigil

the land of Moriah. On a mountain there I want you to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to me.' \*

Early next morning Abraham cut some wood for the sacrifice, put it on his donkey and started the journey with Isaac and two servants. On the third day Abraham saw the mountain in the distance. He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go to that place and worship there and when we have finished we will come back.'

Isaac carried the wood and Abraham himself carried the knife and things for the fire. They walked, Isaac said, 'Father, we have the wood and the fire things, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?' Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide (give).' The two of them walked together.

\* When they arrived, Abraham built an altar and put the wood on it. Then he tied Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. He picked up the knife ready to kill his son. But the angel

of the Lord shouted from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham!' Abraham answered, 'I am here.' The angel of the Lord said, 'Do not hurt the boy because now I know that you respect me and did not refuse to offer your only son to me.' Abraham looked around and saw a ram trapped in a bush. He got the ram and offered it as a burnt sacrifice. \*

Abraham named this place, 'The Lord provides (gives).'

\* The angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham from heaven a second time, 'I promise you will receive many blessings from me because you obeyed me. I will make your descendants (future children) as many as the stars of heaven.' \*

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

# Easter Vigil

RESPONSE:

**SAVE ME GOD, I TRUST YOU.**

**SAVE ME GOD, I TRUST YOU.**

Lord, you give me everything I need.

Lord, you support me.

My heart rejoices, my soul is glad.  
My body will rest in safety.

**SAVE ME GOD, I TRUST YOU.**

Lord, you will never leave my soul with the dead.

You will not let my body decay (rot, die).

You will show me the way of life.

Your presence will fill me with joy forever.

**SAVE ME GOD, I TRUST YOU.**

**PRAYER** (priest)

Let us pray. God our Father, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of all peoples, and through the death and resurrection of Christ you kept that promise: everywhere all over the world you increase your chosen people. Let us all accept your invitation to receive the new

*Psalm 15* life of grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*This reading is compulsory, must be read.*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF EXODUS**

*Exodus 14:15 – 15:1*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you still asking me for help? Tell the people of Israel to continue walking. With the staff (stick) in your hand, stretch it out over the sea. The sea will divide and the people of Israel can walk through on dry ground. I will make the Egyptian soldiers so stubborn so that they will follow you. I will show that I am more powerful than Pharaoh and I will win honour and glory. Then Pharaoh, the Egyptian soldiers, and the chariots (horsemen), will know that I am the Lord.'

The angel of the Lord that went in front of the people of Israel changed and moved to the back of the people. The pillar of cloud also moved to the back. Now the pillar of cloud was between the Israelite people and the Egyptian



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soldiers. The cloud made it dark for the Egyptian soldiers and that night they could not come nearer to the people of Israel.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The sea divided, the wind came from the east and blew all night and made the land in the sea dry. The people of Israel walked through the sea on dry land, walls of water on the left and on the right. All the Egyptian soldiers and the chariots (horsemen) followed and went into the sea. In the morning, the Lord looked down from the pillar of cloud and saw the Egyptian army. The Lord made the army confused, the chariots' wheels became stuck and they could not move. The Egyptian soldiers said, 'The Lord is helping the Israelites and fighting against us. Let us escape!'

The Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water will cover the Egyptian soldiers and the chariots (horsemen).' Before dawn (daylight), Moses stretched out

his hand over the sea, the walls of sea water closed, and the sea covered the Egyptian army. The army tried to escape from the water, but the Lord threw them into the sea. All the Egyptian soldiers and the chariots (horsemen) drowned in the sea. No one lived. But the people of Israel walked through the sea on dry land, walls of water on their left and on their right. That day the Lord saved the people of Israel from the Egyptian soldiers and the people saw dead bodies lying dead on the shore. The people of Israel saw the great power of the Lord against the Egyptian soldiers. The people worshipped the Lord and began to trust the Lord and his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

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*Exodus 15:1–6, 17–18*

**RESPONSE: I WILL PRAISE THE LORD'S WONDERFUL VICTORY.**

**I WILL PRAISE THE LORD'S WONDERFUL VICTORY.**

The Lord's victory is wonderful.  
He threw horses and armies into the sea!

The Lord is powerful, the Lord is my God.

I will praise him.

**I WILL PRAISE THE LORD'S WONDERFUL VICTORY.**

The Lord threw the Pharaoh's horse-men into the sea.

They sank like a stone and drowned.

Your right hand is powerful.  
Your right hand destroyed the enemy.

**I WILL PRAISE THE LORD'S WONDERFUL VICTORY.**

You will lead your people.  
You give them a home on your mountain.  
You made a holy place for them.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

**I WILL PRAISE THE LORD'S WONDERFUL VICTORY.**

**PRAYER** (Priest)

Let us pray. Tonight we see the wonders of the miracles you worked long ago. You saved your people from slavery and now you offer that salvation to all through baptism. Let us all become the true sons and daughters of Abraham so that we can worship you worthily. Amen.

**A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL** ⇅ **TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 6:3–11*

You were taught that when we were baptised in Jesus Christ, we were baptised in his death. This means that when we were baptised, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. And when Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, we too will have new life.

If we have been buried together with Christ, we know that we will also rise from death with Jesus Christ in his resurrection. We must realise that our old lives

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died with Christ on the cross. Jesus destroyed our sinful body. He freed us from sin. So when a person dies, this person has finished with sin.

But we believe that when we die with Christ, we will come back to life with him. We know Christ rose from death and he will never die again. Death has no more power over Jesus. When Jesus died - he died once, he died for everybody - he has conquered the power of sin. Jesus now has new life with God. In the same way, you must think that you are finished with sin, and alive for God through Jesus Christ.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 117*

RESPONSE:

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good.

All the people of Israel say:

‘His love will never end (finish).’

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lord has won.

I shall not die, I shall live.

The work of the Lord is wonderful.

Alleluia!

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 28:1-10*

After sabbath was finished, early on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary, went to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a strong earthquake. The angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the tomb and sat on it. The angel's face was like

# Easter Vigil

lightning, his clothes white like snow. The guards were shocked. They were so frightened they became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, he was crucified. He is not here. He has risen like he said he would. Come and look in the tomb. His body has gone. Then go quickly and tell Jesus' disciples. Tell them: "Jesus has risen and he will go to Galilee. You will see him there." Now I have told you.' The women quickly left the tomb. They were full of wonder, fear and joy, and they ran to tell the disciples.

And there, Jesus came to meet the women. Jesus said, 'Peace be with you.' The women approached Jesus, knelt down and hugged his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that they must go to Galilee. They will see me there.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Easter Sunday

## A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 10:34, 37-43*

Peter spoke to the people, 'You must have heard about what happened recently in Judaea, about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. Because God was with Jesus, he went everywhere, doing good and healing all that were under the power of the devil.

We are witnesses. We saw everything that Jesus did. We also saw people kill him on a tree, but three days later, God raised Jesus to life. Jesus appeared, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God chose. We are the witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Jesus told us to proclaim to all people and tell them that God has appointed (chosen) Jesus to judge everyone, alive or dead. All the prophets spoke about Jesus,

saying any person that believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 117*

RESPONSE: **TODAY THE LORD IS RISEN. LET US REJOICE.**

**TODAY THE LORD IS RISEN. LET US REJOICE.**

Alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good.

All the people of Israel say, 'His love will never end (finish).'

**TODAY THE LORD IS RISEN. LET US REJOICE.**

The Lord has won.

I shall not die, I shall live.

The work of the Lord is wonderful.

Alleluia!

**TODAY THE LORD IS RISEN. LET US REJOICE.**

# Easter Sunday

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE COLOSSIANS**

*Colossians 3: 1-4*

Because you received life again through Jesus Christ, you must look for the things of heaven, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Think about the things of heaven, don't think about the things on earth. Your old life has died, your new life is now with Christ in God. Christ is your life. And when Christ comes, you will appear with him and share his glory!

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Christ is risen, let us rejoice.

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 20:1-9*

Early on Sunday morning, when it was still dark, Mary Magdala went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb. Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple (John), the one Jesus loved. Mary said to them, 'They have taken Jesus' body from the tomb. We don't know where they have put his body.'

So Peter went to the tomb with the other disciple. They ran together but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the cloths lying on the ground, but he did not go in. Simon Peter, running behind the other disciple (John), arrived later. Peter went into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying on the ground.

# Easter Sunday

He also saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head. This cloth was rolled up separate from the other cloths lying on the ground. Then the other disciple (John) that had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and he believed. Before that, they had not understood the teaching of the scriptures (Bible), that Jesus must rise from the dead.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

## 2nd Sunday of Easter

### **A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES**

*Acts 2:42–47*

The people that changed their lives now followed the teaching of the apostles and shared the community life with them. They prayed and broke the bread together.

The apostles worked many miracles and did amazing things, and many people respected the apostles.

All those that believed in Jesus Christ lived together in community and they shared everything together. They sold their things and shared the money with everybody, depending on what each person needed.

Everyday they went as a group to the Temple. They broke the bread in their homes, sharing food gladly and generously. They praised God, and people respected them. Everyday the number of people in the community increased (bigger and

bigger), and more people were saved by the Lord.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

#### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalm 117*

RESPONSE: **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.**

#### **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.**

Let all the people of Israel say:  
'God's love will never end (finish).'  
The enemy attacked me and I fell.  
But the Lord saved me, he gave me strength.

#### **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.**

The stone rejected by the builders became the important corner stone.

The work of the Lord is wonderful.

This day is special.

We rejoice and we are glad.

#### **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.**



# 2nd Sunday of Easter

## **A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST SCROLL** ⇅

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through his great mercy, God gave us new life as children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance. This inheritance will never be spoilt or fade away, because God keeps it for us in heaven. Through faith, God's power will guard (protect) you until the end of time when God will show his salvation to all. This will give you great joy, even though you now go through hard times. When God reveals (shows) Jesus Christ, your faith will become real - like gold tested in fire - but faith is more precious than gold because gold can be spoilt. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour. You have not seen Jesus but you love him; and without seeing Jesus Christ, you still believe and you have great joy - no words can explain this. You are confident of what will happen in the end, because

your faith helps you look forward to the salvation of your souls.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Those that do not see me but still believe, they will be blessed.'

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 20:19–31*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the disciples were together in the room, and the doors were closed and locked, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you.' He showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy because they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

## 2nd Sunday of Easter

'Peace be with you. The Father sent me, so I too send you.'

Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins are not forgiven.'

One of the twelve apostles, Thomas, was not there. Later the disciples told him, 'We saw the Lord.' Thomas answered, 'I refuse to believe until I see the holes in his hands and touch them. I will not believe until I see the hole in his side and touch it.' Eight days later, the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, 'Peace be with you.' Then Jesus spoke to Thomas, 'Look! Touch my hands. Put your hand in my side and feel it. Doubt no more, but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him, 'You believe because you can see me. But the people that have not seen me

and still believe, they are truly blessed.'

Jesus did many other miracles and the disciples saw them. But all these other miracles are not written in this book. All the miracles included in this book are to help you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that because you believe you can have life through his name.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 3rd Sunday of Easter

## **A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES**

*Acts 2:14, 22–33*

On Pentecost day, Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and began to speak in a loud voice to all the people. He said, ‘People of Israel, listen to what I now tell you. Jesus of Nazareth was a man God gave to you. You know because of the signs and miracles that God worked through Jesus Christ when Jesus was on earth with you. God already knew that you would arrest Jesus, and allow people that did not respect the Law, to crucify him on the cross. You killed him, but God raised Jesus to life, freeing him from the pains of Hades (hell). It was impossible for death to have power over Jesus. Because as David said:

"I saw the Lord with me always. He is at my right side and I will always be safe. My heart is glad. My lips shout with joy. My body will rest in hope because you will not let my soul go to Hades (hell). You will not let the body of the holy one (person) decay (rot). You

have taught me the way of life. Through your presence you give me joy."

Brothers and sisters, I can tell you that David is truly dead; his tomb is here. David was a prophet, and he knew that God promised him that one of his descendants (future family) would become a king. David believed in God's promise about the resurrection of Christ; this is why he said:

"He (Christ) would not be left in the place of the dead. His body would not decay (rot)."

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. By God's right hand, Jesus was lifted up to heaven. Jesus received the Holy Spirit from God as promised. You now see and hear God's gift given to all of us.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

# 3rd Sunday of Easter

*Psalm 15*

RESPONSE: **LORD, SHOW US  
THE WAY OF YOUR LIFE**

**LORD, SHOW US THE WAY OF  
YOUR LIFE**

You protect me Lord and I trust  
you.

All the good things I have come  
from you.

I will bless (praise) the Lord  
because he guides me.

At night he protects my heart.

**LORD, SHOW US THE WAY OF  
YOUR LIFE**

My heart rejoices, my soul is glad.  
You will not let my soul go to  
Hades (hell).

Lord, you show me your way of  
life.

I will always be happy with you.

**LORD, SHOW US THE WAY OF  
YOUR LIFE**

**A READING FROM ST PETER'S  
FIRST SCROLL** ↕

*1 Peter 1:17-21*

You believe God the Father has  
no favourites and that He judges  
each one depending on the

things each person has done;  
then during your time away from  
home, you must live with  
reverence for God. You know that  
in the past your way of life was  
not good, it was the same bad  
way your people lived long ago.  
But now, your life is saved not by  
things like silver and gold, they  
can easily be spoilt; your life is  
saved by the precious blood of  
Jesus Christ. The sacrifice of Jesus  
Christ is like the sacrifice of a  
lamb that is pure and perfect.  
God chose Jesus Christ before the  
creation of the world, but God  
showed Christ to the world  
recently for you. Through Christ  
you now have faith in God. God  
raised Christ from the dead and  
gave him glory, and this helps  
you to have faith and hope in  
God.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

# 3rd Sunday of Easter

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord Jesus teach us to understand the scriptures (Bible). Let our hearts burn inside us when you speak to us.

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

*Luke 24:13–35*

Two disciples walked to a village named Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They were both talking about what had happened recently. While they were talking, Jesus himself came and walked with them. They saw him but they did not recognise that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, ‘What are you talking about?’ The two disciples stopped, their faces looked very sad.

One of the two disciples, named Cleopas, said to Jesus, ‘You must be the only person in Jerusalem not knowing the things that happened there in the last few days.’ Jesus asked, ‘What things?’ They said to him, ‘All about Jesus

of Nazareth. He was a great prophet. He did wonderful work and said wonderful things about God. But our high priests and our Jewish leaders condemned Jesus to death by crucifying him. We hoped that Jesus would be the one to free Israel. But there’s more news: two days ago Jesus was killed; and now we are surprised because some women told us that they went to the tomb early this morning. They could not find the body of Jesus and they came back to tell us that they saw angels. The angels told the women Jesus is alive! Some of our friends went to the tomb, and everything the women had said was true: the body was not in the tomb, they didn’t see Jesus.’

Then Jesus said to the two disciples, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the message of the prophets. Remember, the prophets said Jesus must suffer before he received glory.’ So Jesus began to explain the story about Moses and the different prophets, and that all the things

## 3rd Sunday of Easter

written in the scriptures (Bible) were really about Jesus himself.

Then they came near the village, Jesus wanted to continue walking, but the two disciples persuaded him to stay with them. They said, 'The day is nearly finished and it is becoming dark.' So Jesus went in to stay with them. They sat down to eat: Jesus took the bread and said the prayer of blessing. He broke the bread and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus, but he disappeared. The two disciples said to each other, 'While Jesus talked to us along the road explaining the scriptures (Bible), our hearts burned inside us.'

The two disciples left Emmaus and quickly walked back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven apostles there together with their friends. The apostles told the two disciples, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has truly risen. He appeared to Simon Peter.' So the two disciples told them the story of what had happened along the road, and that they only recognised that the

man was Jesus when he broke the bread.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 4th Sunday of Easter

## A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 2:14, 36–41*

On Pentecost day Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and began to speak in a loud voice to all the people. He said, ‘People of Israel, you should know that you crucified Jesus but God has made him as your Lord and Christ.’

When the people heard this, they felt very sad in their hearts. They asked Peter and the apostles, ‘What should we do?’ Peter answered, ‘You must repent (be sorry). Each one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ and your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God’s promise is for you and your children, for people living far away, and for all those that the Lord our God will chose for himself.’ Peter spoke to the people for a long time, using many different ways to explain. He warned them, ‘You must save yourselves from evil people today.’ The people believed, they accepted everything that he said and they were baptised. That day,

about three thousand people joined the disciples and believed in the Lord.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 22*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
He gives me everything I need.  
He lets me rest in green fields.  
He leads me to calm pools of fresh water to give me strength.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

He guides me along the right way.

He is faithful.

If I walk in the dark, I should not be afraid.

Because the Lord, with his shepherd’s crook (stick), will protect me.

# 4th Sunday of Easter

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I  
NEED.**

The Lord prepared a banquet  
(feast) for me.

Lord, you anointed my head with  
oil; my cup is full.

Goodness and kindness will be  
with me always.

I will live in the Lord's house for  
ever and ever.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I  
NEED.**

**A READING FROM ST PETER'S  
FIRST SCROLL** ⬆️

*1 Peter 2:20–25*

If you do something wrong, it  
would be right for you to be  
punished. But if you are punished  
for doing something good and  
you suffer, but remain patient  
because this would make God  
happy.

This is what God expects you to  
do. Christ suffered for you, he  
gave you an example for you to  
follow. He did nothing wrong, no

one heard a lie from his mouth.  
People insulted him but he never  
revenged. People tortured him,  
he did not fight back. He trusted  
God to judge rightly. Christ  
carried our sins in his body on the  
cross, so that we would stop  
sinning and live with holiness.  
Through his wounds, you are  
healed. You were like sheep that  
lost their way, but you came back  
to the shepherd, and the  
shepherd will always protect your  
souls.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lord says, 'I am the good  
shepherd. I know my sheep and  
they know me.'

**ALLELUIA!**



# 4th Sunday of Easter

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 10:1-10*

Jesus said to the Jews, 'I tell you the truth, any one that wants to enter the sheep pen (special place for sheep) should go through the gate. If a person goes in another way, that person is a thief. One person goes through the gate: the shepherd. The person guarding the gate lets the shepherd in. The sheep listen to the shepherd's voice. The shepherd calls the sheep by name and leads them out. When the shepherd has gathered the sheep, the shepherd starts to walk in front of them, and the sheep follow because they know the shepherd's voice. The sheep never follow a stranger, they run away because they don't know the stranger's voice.'

Jesus told this parable to the people, but they did not understand what it meant. So Jesus explained, 'I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All others that have come are thieves. The sheep refuse to listen

to them. I am the gate. Anyone that comes through me will be safe. That person can come in and go out freely and will find green fields. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came so that all will have life and I give full life to all.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 5th Sunday of Easter

## A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 6:1-7*

More and more people began to believe in Jesus and the number of disciples increased. About this time, the Hellenists, Greek-speaking people, began to argue with the Jewish people. The Hellenists (Greek-speaking people) said that when the Jewish people gave food and things to other people, they forgot or ignored the Hellenists (Greek-speaking) widows. The twelve apostles had a big meeting with all the disciples. They said to them, 'We can't stop teaching the Word of God so that we can have more time to give out food. It is not right to stop preaching the Word of God. So you must choose seven wise men with good names and full of the Holy Spirit. We will give them this responsibility of giving food and looking after people. Then we will have more time for prayer and preaching.' Everybody at the meeting agreed. They chose seven men: Stephen, a man full of

faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus from Antioch, himself a convert to the Jewish faith. The people brought these seven men to the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased. A large group of Jewish priests accepted the faith.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 32*

RESPONSE: **LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

Rejoice in the Lord, all you good people!

Use the harp and sing praise to the Lord.

The word of the Lord is always true.

We trust in his works.

# 5th Sunday of Easter

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

The Lord loves justice and right.  
The Lord fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those people that respect him.

He saves their souls from death.

**LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.**

**A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST SCROLL** ↕

*1 Peter 2:4-9*

Come to Jesus, the living stone, rejected by people but chosen by God and valued by God. As living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. The scriptures (Bible) say:

'See, I chose a precious cornerstone and I put this stone in Zion. Any person that believes in this will not be disappointed.'

This stone is valuable to those people that believe. But for those that do not believe, this stone rejected by the builders, became the important corner stone, a stone that makes people fall. People fall over this stone because they do not believe in God.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a nation (people) blessed by God, God's own people chosen to proclaim his mighty power. Because from the dark God brought you into his wonderful light.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father but only through me (Jesus).'

**ALLELUIA!**

# 5th Sunday of Easter

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust God, and trust me (Jesus). There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if there were no rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come back and take you myself, so that you will always be with me. You know the way to the place I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father but only through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. Now you know him and you have seen him.'

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Philip, I have been with you for a

long time and still you don't know me? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. So why do you say, "Let us see the Father?" Do you really believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I spoke to you, they are not my words. These words are from the Father. He lives in me and He is working through me. You must believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you can't believe, then try and believe because of the things I did. I tell you the truth, any person that believes in me will do the same work as myself. Yes, that person will do greater (better) works, because I am going to the Father.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 6th Sunday of Easter

## A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 8:5–8, 14–17*

Philip went to a town in Samaria and preached about Christ to the people there. The people listened carefully to Philip, and they saw the miracles he worked; they all welcomed him. Many people had evil spirits, but with loud screams the evil spirits came out of them. Many weak and crippled people were cured. Because of this many people in the town rejoiced.

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted the word of God, so they sent Peter and John. When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the people of Samaria to receive the Holy Spirit because they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Peter and John put their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 65*

RESPONSE: **SING WITH JOY TO GOD.**

## SING WITH JOY TO GOD.

Everyone on earth sing with joy to God!

Praise God's name!

Say to God, 'Your work is wonderful!'

Everyone on earth gives glory to the Lord.

## SING WITH JOY TO GOD.

Come and see the works of God. The sea God changed into dry land.

Come and I will tell you all about how God saved me.

Praise God, because he always listens to my prayer and loves me.

## SING WITH JOY TO GOD.

## A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST SCROLL ↕

*1 Peter 3:15–18*

In your hearts, always respect the Lord. If someone asks you, always be ready and quick to explain why you have hope in the Lord. Explain to people in a gentle way, with respect and with a clear

# 6th Sunday of Easter

conscience. So if people say bad things about you and accuse (blame) you because you live and follow Christ's way, these people will become ashamed of themselves. If God allows you to suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than to suffer for doing wrong.

Look at Christ, he died for you. He was not guilty, but he died once for our sins, died for guilty people like you and me so that He could lead us to God. In the body he was condemned to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'If any one loves me, that person will follow my word. My Father will love that person. My father and I will come to that person.'

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 14:15-21*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father and he will give you another "Helper" to be with you for ever. He is the Spirit of truth the world will never accept because the world does not know him. But you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you alone like children with no parents. I will come back to you. Soon the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. You will live because I live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Any person that receives my commandments and follows them really loves me. Any one that loves me, my Father will love also, and I will love them and show myself to them.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Ascension of the Lord

## A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 1:1-11*

In my first book to you Theophilus, I wrote everything about the life of Jesus, the things Jesus did and taught. Jesus taught his apostles many things. For forty (40) days after his death he (Jesus) appeared to his apostles many times to prove that he was alive and to tell them about the kingdom of God. After Jesus sat at table with the apostles, he told them to wait and not to leave Jerusalem. He reminded them of God's promise. He (Jesus) said, 'Remember, John baptised people with water, but soon, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

The apostles asked Jesus, 'Lord, will you establish again the kingdom for the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is not important for you to know times or dates. Only God the Father knows. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. Then you will be my witnesses - you will tell people

about me in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and all over the world.'

Then Jesus was lifted up into the sky. While the apostles watched, Jesus disappeared into a cloud. The apostles continued staring into the sky. Suddenly two men in white appeared as angels and they said to the apostles, 'Why are you still standing here looking up into the sky? You saw Jesus go into heaven; he will come back to you the same way.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 46*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!**

### THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!

All peoples, clap your hands.

Shout with joy to God!

We respect the Lord, the Most High.

The Lord is king of all the earth.

### THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!

God goes up with joy.

God is king of all the earth.

# Ascension of the Lord

God is king of all the nations  
(peoples).

Sing praise to our king, our God.

**THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE EPHESIANS**

*Ep 1:17-23*

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit that will make you wise. That spirit will reveal (show) God to you so that you will know him. I pray that your minds be opened to see his light so that you will know the hope God wants us to have. I pray that you will realise the wonderful and rich blessings God has promised to his people. Because of our belief in God, we know his power is truly great. You can tell the strength of God's power working through Christ. God used this power to raise Christ from the dead and let him sit at his right side in heaven. God made Christ more important than all Kings, Queens, Authorities,

Powers and Rulers. Christ's name is more important than all other names, now in the world or in the future. God put everything under his control and put Christ as the ruler of everything God made. Christ, the head (master) of the Church. We, the Church, are his body; and Christ makes everything in creation perfect.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**



# Ascension of the Lord

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'Go, make all people disciples. I, Jesus, am with you, for ever.'

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 28:16–20*

The eleven apostles went to Galilee. They went to the mountain Jesus had arranged to meet them. There they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, but some hesitated. Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. Go, and make all people in the world my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to follow all the commandments I gave you. Remember, I am with you always; yes, till the end of the world.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

## **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 7th Sunday of Easter

## **A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES**

*Acts 1:12–14*

The apostles left the Mount of Olives and they went back to Jerusalem, about half a mile walk. They walked into the city, and went to the upper room and stayed there. The apostles were: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon named the Zealot, and Jude son of James. They all came together and prayed continuously. The apostles prayed, with some women, including Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and with Jesus' brothers.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalm 26*

**RESPONSE: I AM SURE I WILL  
SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS.**

### **I AM SURE I WILL SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS.**

The Lord is my light and my help,  
I will fear no one.

The Lord protects me from  
danger.

I will never be afraid.

### **I AM SURE I WILL SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS.**

I ask the Lord for one thing.

One thing only - to live in the  
Lord's house, everyday of my life.

I am sure I will see the Lord's  
goodness.

Trust in the Lord!

### **I AM SURE I WILL SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS.**

## **A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST SCROLL**

*1 Peter 4:13–16*

If you can share in Christ's  
suffering, be happy because you  
will have more joy when Christ  
shows his glory. If people say bad  
things to you because you follow  
Christ, you are blessed. You have  
the Spirit of glory, this means the  
Spirit of God is with you. If any of  
you suffer, it must not be because  
you murdered, or you stole, or  
you made trouble for other  
people. But if any of you suffer

# 7th Sunday of Easter

because you follow Christ, you should not be ashamed of it. You should thank God that you are a Christian.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'I will not leave you alone, like children with no parents. I will come back to you and your hearts will be full of joy.'

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 17:1-11*

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, now is the time. Give glory to your Son so that your Son can give glory to you. You gave power to your Son, so that your Son could give eternal life to all those people that you gave him. What is eternal life? Eternal life means people can know you, the only true God, and also know Jesus Christ, the One you sent. I have finished the work you gave me to do and I have given you

glory on earth. Father, give me the glory now. Give me the glory I had with you before the world was created. I have told these apostles about you, and helped them to know your name. They were your people and you gave them to me. They have followed your word. Now at last they know that every thing I have is from you. I gave these apostles the teaching you gave me. They accepted this teaching. They know that I truly came from you. They believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but I am praying for these apostles you gave me, because they are yours. Everything I have is yours and everything you have is mine. My glory is shown through these apostles. I will not stay in the world, but these apostles are still here in the world. Now I am coming to you.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Pentecost Sunday – Vigil Mass

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF GENESIS

*Genesis 11:1-9*

All the people in the world spoke the same language, using the same words. People moved to the East, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they settled (lived) there. The people said, 'Why not make bricks, we can put them in the fire and the bricks will become hard.' So they used bricks, not stones; and they used tar. The people said, 'Let us build a town and a tower. The tower will reach heaven. We will become famous. We will not be scattered (spread) all over the world.'

The Lord came down to see the town and saw people building the tower. The Lord said, 'These people all speak the same language! They are going too far! Nothing is too difficult for them. We will go down and confuse (mix up) their language. Then they will not understand each other.' The Lord scattered (spread) people in different places all over the world. The

people stopped building the town and they named it Babel because that was the name of the place the Lord confused (mix up) the language of the people. So from there, people scattered (spread) all over the world.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 103*

RESPONSE: **ALLELUIA!**

## ALLELUIA!

Praise the Lord!

Lord God, you are great!

## ALLELUIA!

The earth is full of your riches.

If you take away your spirit, everything dies.

If you give your spirit, everything grows and the earth becomes alive.

## ALLELUIA!

Lord, you look after your creation.

Your spirit keeps everything alive.

## ALLELUIA!

# Pentecost Sunday – Vigil Mass

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 8:22-27*

We know from the beginning till now, everything in creation has been waiting in pain, like a pregnant woman ready to give birth. We have the gifts of the Spirit but we wait. And not only creation waits, we also wait with inner pain for our bodies to be freed and receive redemption (salvation). If we hope for something we can see, it is not really hope. But we hope God will save us - we are not yet saved - it is something we must wait for with patience.

When we are weak, the Spirit comes to help us. When we cannot pray, or don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays to God for us. The Spirit prays without using words, and God knows perfectly what the Spirit means. God knows everything in our hearts. The Spirit prays for all people to obey what God wants.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and give us the fire of your love.

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 7:37-39*

On the last day, the greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted: 'If any person is thirsty, let them come to me! If anyone believes in me, as scripture says: "Living water will flow from his breast (chest)."'

Jesus was talking about the Spirit that people believing in him (Jesus) soon would receive. They had not yet received the Spirit because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Pentecost Sunday

## A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

*Acts 2:1–11*

On Pentecost day, all the apostles were sitting together in one room. Suddenly they heard a noise from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing and it filled the whole house. Something appeared like tongues of fire which spread and came over each apostle's head. All the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak foreign languages because the Spirit gave them the gift of languages.

In Jerusalem there were devout (good religious holy) people; they came from every country in the world. They heard this noise and gathered (came) together, and they were all bewildered (confused, puzzled) because each one heard the apostles speaking their own language. They were amazed (surprised) and said, 'These men are from Galilee, but we come from different places: Asia, Judaea, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Cyprus, Crete, as well as visitors from Rome, Jews, converts and

Arabs. We hear them speaking our own language about the marvels (wonders) of God.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 103*

RESPONSE: **O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE WORLD.**

**O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE WORLD.**

Praise the Lord!

Lord God, you are great!

The earth is full of your riches.

If you take away your spirit, everything dies.

But when you send your spirit, everything grows and the earth becomes alive.

**O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE WORLD.**

The glory of the Lord continues for ever!

The Lord is happy with his works.

Let my thoughts please Him.

I rejoice with the Lord.

# Pentecost Sunday

**O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT  
AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE  
WORLD.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE CORINTHIANS**

*1 Corinthians 12:3–7, 12–13*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' without the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are many different spiritual gifts but they are all from the same Holy Spirit. There are different ways of serving, but all serve the same Lord. Different people work in different ways, but the same God works in all of them. The way God gives the Spirit to each person is always for a special reason.

A human body has many different parts (hands, legs, eyes, feet, etc). All the parts together make one body. The same with Christ - all of us were baptised in the one Spirit - some of us are Jews, some of us are Greeks, some of us are slaves and some of us are free

people, but the same Spirit was given to all of us.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and give us the fire of your love.

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 20:19–23*

On the first day of the week, in the evening the disciples gathered together in the room. The doors were closed, because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you.' He showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. My Father sent me, so in the same way I send you.'

# Pentecost Sunday

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins remain (not forgiven).'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**



# Mary, Mother of the Church

## Monday after Pentecost

### **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF GENESIS**

*Genesis 3:9–15, 20*

After Adam ate the fruit of the tree, the Lord God called and asked him: ‘Where are you?’ Adam replied: ‘I heard the sound of You in the garden, I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.’ God said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you been eating from the tree I forbade you to eat?’ The man replied, ‘The woman you gave to be with me; she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’ Then God said to the woman, ‘What have you done?’ The woman replied, ‘The snake tempted me and I ate.’ Then God said to the snake, ‘Because you did this, accursed (condemned) be you of all cattle and wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and eat dust as long as you live. I shall make you and the woman enemies, her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head and you will bite her offspring’s heel.’ The man named his wife

‘Eve’ because she was the mother of all those who live.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Alternative reading*

### **A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

*Acts 1:12–14*

After Jesus ascended into heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk. When they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All of them joined in continuous prayer with one heart, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

# Mary, Mother of the Church

## Monday after Pentecost

*Psalm 86*

**RESPONSE: CITY OF GOD,  
PEOPLE SAY WONDERFUL  
THINGS ABOUT YOU.**

**CITY OF GOD, PEOPLE SAY  
WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT  
YOU.**

God loves his temple on the holy  
mountain

The Lord prefers the Zion's gates  
more than any other place in  
Israel.

**CITY OF GOD, PEOPLE SAY  
WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT  
YOU.**

The Lord writes the names of all  
peoples,  
all are his children.

They sing and they dance  
saying that all blessings come  
from Jerusalem.

**CITY OF GOD, PEOPLE SAY  
WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT  
YOU.**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary,  
and worthy of all praise, for the  
sun of justice, Christ our God was  
born of you.

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL  
OF JOHN**

*John 19:25–34*

Near the cross of Jesus stood his  
mother (Mary) and his mother's  
sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his  
mother and the disciple he loved  
standing near her, Jesus said to  
his mother: 'Woman, this is your  
son.' Then looking at the disciple,  
Jesus said: 'This is your mother.'  
And from that hour the disciple  
took her into his home.

Now, Jesus knew that everything  
was finished. The scriptures  
(Bible) said that Jesus would be  
thirsty, so Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'  
Near the cross there was a jar of  
vinegar (sour wine). So the  
soldiers put a sponge on a stick

# Mary, Mother of the Church

## Monday after Pentecost

and gave it to Jesus. Jesus tasted the vinegar, then he said, 'It is finished.' Jesus bowed his head and died.

That day was Preparation Day. The next day was the Sabbath - a special holy day - and the Jewish laws did not allow bodies to be left on the cross. So the Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the men on the cross and to bury the dead bodies. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and then the second man, but when they came to Jesus, they realised he was already dead. The soldiers did not break his legs, but with a spear one soldier pierced Jesus' side. Straight away, blood and water flowed out.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF GENESIS

*Genesis 22:9–18*

When they arrived, Abraham built an altar and put the wood on it. Then he tied Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. He picked up the knife ready to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord shouted from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham!' Abraham answered, 'I am here.' The angel of the Lord said, 'Do not hurt the boy because now I know that you respect me and did not refuse to offer your only son to me.' Abraham looked around and saw a ram trapped in a bush. He got the ram and offered it as a burnt sacrifice. Abraham named this place, 'The Lord provides (gives).'

The angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham from heaven a second time, 'I promise you will receive many blessings from me because you obeyed me. I will make your descendants (future children) as many as the stars of heaven.'

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

Alternative reading

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE HEBREWS

*Hebrews 10:4–10*

The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. So when Christ came into the world, he said to God:

'You do not want sacrifices or blood from animals, but you prepared a body for me. You do not want animals burnt on the altar, or sacrifices to take away sins.' Christ said, 'God, I am here. As it is written in the scriptures (Bible), "I am ready to obey you."'

We see Christ first said to God: 'You did not want sacrifices or animals burnt on the altar to take away sins.' Then Christ said to God, 'I am here. I will obey you.' So the old way of sacrificing animals on the altar is finished. Now Christ replaced the old way with the new way - the new offering (sacrifice) made holy by the body of Jesus Christ. One sacrifice of Jesus is enough for all people forever.

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 39*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I'VE COME TO OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

**LORD, I'VE COME TO OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

Lord, you do not want sacrifice.  
You only want me to listen to you.  
You do not want burnt offerings.  
So I said: 'Lord, I am here.'

**LORD, I'VE COME TO OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

I will not be quiet.  
I tell all about your goodness.  
They say 'The Lord is great',  
they will come looking for you  
and they will rejoice.

**LORD, I'VE COME TO OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Christ obeyed God, he became humble that he accepted death, death on a cross. God raised him and gave him a name that is more important than all other names.

## ALLELUIA!

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 26:36–42*

Then Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus said to his disciples, 'Stay here and I will go there to pray.' Jesus told Peter, and the two brothers, James and John, to go with him. Jesus became very sad and very worried. Jesus told them, 'My soul is full of sorrow. Wait here, stay awake with me.' Jesus walked a little further from them. He fell, face on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me! But I will do what you want, not what I want.' Jesus came back to the three disciples and found

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

them asleep. Jesus said to Peter, 'Could you not stay awake for one hour with me? You should be awake and praying that you will not fail. Your spirit is eager, but your body is weak.' A second time, Jesus went back and prayed, 'My Father, if this cup of suffering cannot be taken away without me drinking it, then I will do what you want.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Trinity Sunday

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EXODUS

*Exodus 34:4–6, 8–9*

Early in the morning Moses carried the two flat stones and went up Mount Sinai as the Lord had told him. Then the Lord came down in a cloud and Moses stood there with the Lord.

Moses said the name 'Lord'. The Lord passed Moses and said, 'I, the Lord God, I am merciful and full of compassion. I am slow to anger, my love is great, I am faithful.' Straight away Moses bowed to the ground and worshipped the Lord saying, 'Lord, if you are really pleased (happy) with me, I ask you to come with us. True, these people are stubborn, but forgive our evil ways and our sins, and accept us as your own people.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm (Dn 3:52–56)*

## RESPONSE: GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOR EVER.

### GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOR EVER.

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

Blest your glorious name.

### GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOR EVER.

You are blest in your temple.

You are blest in your kingdom.

### GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOR EVER.

You are blest that look down from heaven.

Blest your glorious name.

### GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOR EVER.

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ⇕ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*2 Corinthians 13:11–13*

Brothers and sisters, we want you to be happy. Try to become perfect. Help one another. Stay together. Live in peace, and the

# Trinity Sunday

God of love and peace will be with you.

Every time you meet people, give each other a holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings (they say 'hello' to you).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship (friendship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. God was in the beginning, God is now, and God will come again.

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 3:16–18*

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that any person that believes in his Son would not be lost, but live forever. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world through his Son. Any person that believes in him (Jesus) will not be condemned. But any person that refuses to believe is condemned already. Why? Because that person refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**



# Corpus Christi

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF DEUTERONOMY

*Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14–16*

Moses said to the people: 'Remember, the Lord God led you through the desert for forty (40) years. God made you humble. God wanted to know if you would keep the Commandments and so He tested you. He let you become hungry and fed you with manna, something that your fathers and yourself had never seen or eaten before. God wanted you to understand that people can not live on bread alone but live on everything the Lord says.

Do not forget, you were slaves in Egypt but the Lord God freed you and brought you out of Egypt. The Lord guided you through this huge and dangerous desert, full of snakes and scorpions. The Lord guided you through the dry land without water and you were thirsty. The Lord gave you water from the rock. The Lord fed you with manna - something that your fathers had not known.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 147*

RESPONSE: **ALLELUIA, PRAISE THE LORD!**

**ALLELUIA, PRAISE THE LORD!**

God made the gates of Jerusalem strong.

He blessed the children in your city.

God established peace in your country.

He feeds you with good wheat.

**ALLELUIA, PRAISE THE LORD!**

God gives his word to the earth.

The world quickly obeys.

God gave his laws and Commandments to Israel.

He has not given his teachings to other nations (peoples).

**ALLELUIA, PRAISE THE LORD!**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17*

The cup that we bless: when we drink it, we share in the blood of

# Corpus Christi

Christ. And the bread that we break: when we eat it, we share in the body of Christ. There is only one bread and we are many people. But because we share this one bread, we really become one body (community).

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'I am the living bread come down from heaven. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever.'

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 6:51-58*

Jesus said to the Jews, 'I am the living bread come down from heaven. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever. This bread is my flesh. I give my body so that people in the world can live forever.'

The Jews started to argue with each other. They said, 'How can this man give us his body to eat?' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth. If you do not eat the body of the Son of Man, and if you do not drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Any person that eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. And I will raise up that person on the last day. My body is real food and my blood is real drink. If a person eats my body and drinks my blood, that person lives in me and I live in that person. The Father sent me and I receive life from him. So any person that eats me will receive life from me. I am the bread come down from heaven, not like the bread our ancestors (people of the past) ate; they are dead. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# Sacred Heart

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF DEUTERONOMY

*Deuteronomy 7:6–11*

Moses said to the people: ‘The Lord your God chose you from all the people in the world so that you could be his people; you are blessed, you belong to him.

Why did the Lord chose you? Not because you people numbered more than people in other countries; no, it is because the Lord loved you. The Lord wanted to keep the promise He gave to your fathers. The Lord brought you out of Egypt with great power. The Lord freed you from slavery, freed you from the power of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Remember, the Lord your God is the only God. God is faithful. God keeps his promises and shows his love to a thousand generations, to all those that love and obey him. God punishes those that hate him. God is not slow to destroy anyone that hates him. So be careful and keep the commandments, laws and rules that I give you today.’

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 102*

RESPONSE: **THE LOVE OF THE LORD CONTINUES FOR EVER.**

**THE LOVE OF THE LORD CONTINUES FOR EVER.**

My soul give thanks to the Lord.  
Bless his holy name.  
I will never forget all his blessings.  
He always forgives us.

**THE LOVE OF THE LORD CONTINUES FOR EVER.**

The Lord heals us.  
He saves our life from the grave.  
He takes away our guilt.  
He always gives us his love and compassion.

**THE LOVE OF THE LORD CONTINUES FOR EVER.**

# Sacred Heart

## **A READING FROM ST JOHN'S FIRST SCROLL** ⇅

*1 John 4:7–16*

My dear friends, let us love each other because love is from God. Any person that loves is a child of God and knows God. Any person that does not love does not know God, because God is love. God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we could have life through him (Jesus). True love means God's love for us, not our love for God. God showed his love by sending his Son to become the sacrifice that takes away our sins. My dear friends, because God loved us so much, we should love each other in the same way. No person has ever seen God, but if we love each other, then God will live in us and his love will become perfect in us. We know that we live in God and God lives in us because He gave us his Spirit. We have seen and we tell all people that the Father sent his Son to save the world. If any person believes that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in that person and

that person lives in God. We know and we have faith that God shows his love to us. God is love and anyone that lives in love lives in God, and God lives in that person.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'My burden is not heavy. Learn from me because I am gentle and humble in heart.'

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 11:25–30*

Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you hide these things from clever people, and you show these things to children. Yes, Father, you are happy to do this. My Father gave me everything. No one knows the Son, only the Father. The Father knows the Son.

# Sacred Heart

And no one knows the Father, only the Son. He (Jesus) knows the Father, and some people know the Father because the Son reveals (shows) the Father to them.

Come to me all you people that are tired and have heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Accept my yoke and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is not heavy, and the burden I give is light.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 2nd Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*

The Lord said to me, 'Israel, you are my servant. Because of you, people will praise me.' God honoured me, God gave me strength.

The Lord created me in my mother's womb. He chose me his servant to bring together Israel, to bring back his people. The Lord said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant. I will give you a greater responsibility, you will bring back the people of Israel, a people thrown out of their country. I will make you the light of the nations (peoples) so that all the world will be saved.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 39*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I AM HERE! I WILL OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

**LORD, I AM HERE! I WILL OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord and He came to help me.

He heard my prayer and he saved me.

I rejoice and I praise God.

**LORD, I AM HERE! I WILL OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

Lord, you do not want sacrifice.

You want me to listen and be open to you.

You do not want burnt offerings.

So I say: Lord, I am here.

**LORD, I AM HERE! I WILL OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇅ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

I, Paul, chosen by God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and Sosthenes, our brother in Christ, give our best wishes to the Church of God in Corinth and to

## 2nd Sunday of the Year

all the holy people of Jesus Christ. You belong to Jesus Christ, together with all the people that pray to him - their Lord and our Lord. Let God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

#### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

#### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessings on the King that comes in the name of the Lord! Peace and glory in heaven!

#### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

*John 1:29-34*

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him. John said to his friends, 'Look, the lamb of God! He (Jesus) comes to take away the sin of the world. This Jesus is the man I talked about. Remember I said: "A man will come after me. He is more

important than me because he lived before I was born." I did not know him myself. I came baptising with water so that the people of Israel would know that he is the Christ.' Again John said, 'I saw the Spirit, like a dove, coming down from heaven. The spirit came down onto Jesus. I did not know him myself. But God said to me, "When the Spirit comes down on a man, that man is the one that will baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen this happen and I am the witness that he, Jesus, is the Chosen One of God.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

#### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 3rd Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 8:23b – 9:3*

In the past the people in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali were shamed by the Lord but in the future, the Lord will give glory to them living between the sea and the river Jordan.

The people that walked in darkness saw a great light. They lived in shadow, but now light shines on them. You, Lord, made them happy. They are happy, because they finish the harvest. They are happy because they receive good things. God has taken away the yoke (heavy rod) from their back.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 26*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS MY  
LIGHT AND MY HELP.**

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND  
MY HELP.**

The Lord is my light and my help,  
I will fear no one.

The Lord protects me from  
danger.

I will never be afraid.

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND  
MY HELP.**

I ask the Lord for one thing.

One thing only - to live in the

Lord's house, everyday of my life.

I am sure I will see the Lord's  
goodness.

Trust in the Lord!

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND  
MY HELP.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 1:10–3, 17*

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to agree with each other. I don't want you to argue and to be separated. I want you to join together and share your faith with each other. Some people from Chloe's group told me about you. I heard there are troubles and quarrels among you.



# 3rd Sunday of the Year

One of you says, 'I follow Paul.' Another person says, 'I follow Apollos.' Another person says, 'I follow Peter.' Another person says, 'I follow Christ.' But Christ cannot be divided into different groups! Did Paul die on the cross for you? No! Were you baptised in the name of Paul? No!

Christ did not ask me to baptise, but to preach the Good News. He wants me to preach not with worldly ideas and wisdom because philosophy cannot explain the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

### ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom. He cured sick people.

### ALLELUIA!

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 4:12-23*

\* Jesus heard that John the Baptist was arrested and put in prison, and he (Jesus) went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to stay in Capernaum, a town near the Sea of Galilee. This happened to make true the things that the prophet Isaiah said a long time ago:

'In the land of Zebulun and Naphtali near the Sea of Galilee, beyond the River Jordan, the people that lived in darkness will see a great light. The light has come.'

Jesus now began to preach. He said, 'Repent, change your hearts, because the kingdom of heaven is very near.' \*

Jesus was walking near the Sea of Galilee and he saw two brothers, Simon, named Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen and they were trying to catch fish with their nets. Jesus

## 3rd Sunday of the Year

said to them, 'Follow me and I will show you how to catch people.' Straight away, Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus continued walking and he saw another two brothers named James and John, sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. Straight away, James and John left their father in their boat and followed Jesus.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News about the kingdom of God. And Jesus cured all sick (ill) people.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 4th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ZEPHANIAH

*Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13*

All you humble people, turn to the Lord. Obey his laws. Do good, be humble, then maybe you will be safe on the day of the Lord's anger.

I will let humble people stay. They will trust the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, they will not tell lies or twist the truth. They will be like the sheep that eat and rest in the field, no one will bother them.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 145*

RESPONSE: **BLESSED THE POOR PEOPLE IN SPIRIT. GOD'S KINGDOM BELONGS TO THEM.**

**BLESSED THE POOR PEOPLE IN SPIRIT. GOD'S KINGDOM BELONGS TO THEM.**

The Lord is faithful forever.  
God is fair to oppressed people.  
He gives bread to the hungry.  
The Lord freed the prisoners.

**BLESSED THE POOR PEOPLE IN SPIRIT. GOD'S KINGDOM BELONGS TO THEM.**

The Lord helps blind people see. God helped those with heavy burdens.

He protects strangers, widows and orphans (children without parents).

The Lord God reigns forever.

**BLESSED THE POOR PEOPLE IN SPIRIT. GOD'S KINGDOM BELONGS TO THEM.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇅ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 1:26–31*

Brothers and sisters, remember when God chose you, what were you like? Were you wise and influential? Are you from wealthy and important families? No! God chose someone that is foolish to shame the world. God chose someone that is weak to shame strong people. God chose someone the world thinks is not important, but what God chose is

## 4th Sunday of the Year

really more important than anything in the world. The people of this world have nothing to boast (proud) about to God. But God has made you members of Jesus Christ. From God we receive wisdom, gifts of love, holiness and freedom. As the scriptures (Bible) say: if any person wants to boast (proud), let that person boast (proud) about the Lord.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth. We are your children and you showed God's kingdom to us.

### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 5:1-12*

Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the hill and sat down. His

disciples sat around him. Jesus began to teach the people:

'The people that are poor in spirit, they will be blessed, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

The people that are gentle, they will be blessed, because they will receive everything from the Lord.

The people that mourn (cry), they will be blessed, because God will comfort them.

The people that want justice, they will be blessed, because God will satisfy them.

The people that are merciful, they will be blessed, because God will be merciful to them.

The people that are pure in heart, they will be blessed, because they will see God.

The people that make peace, they will be blessed, because they will be called (named) children of God.

The people that want to do good things but suffer, they will be blessed, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

## 4th Sunday of the Year

If you suffer because other people persecute you, hurt you and criticise you because you follow me, you will be blessed. Rejoice with me (Jesus), because I will give you a great reward in heaven.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 5th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 111*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 58:7–10*

The Lord says:

‘Share your bread with hungry people. If poor people have no home, find a home for them. Those without clothes, give them clothes. Do not refuse to help your family. If you try to help, the light within you will shine, and your wound will become better quickly.

If you live faithfully and properly, God will honour you, and the glory of the Lord will be with you. When you pray, the Lord will come. He will say, "I am with you."

If you stop oppression; if you stop fighting; if you stop saying wicked words; if you give your bread to hungry people; if you help those that are suffering; then the light in yourself will shine and there will be no more darkness. Your light will be as bright as midday (12 noon).’

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: A GOOD PERSON IS THE SAME AS A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SEE.**

**A GOOD PERSON IS THE SAME AS A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SEE.**

In the dark, a good person is like a light generous, merciful, and fair. A good person always lends. A good person does business honestly and fairly.

**A GOOD PERSON IS THE SAME AS A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SEE.**

A good person will not doubt or fall.

will not be worried or afraid of bad things.

That person trusts the Lord. God will give them glory.

**A GOOD PERSON IS THE SAME AS A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SEE.**

# 5th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO CORINTHIANS**

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

When I came to you, I did not use philosophy or great speeches, I only wanted to tell you about God's truth. When I stayed with you, I shared with you my knowledge of Jesus Christ, and only about him as the crucified Christ. When I came to you, I did not use clever words in my speeches or sermons, in fact (truth), I came with fear and trembling. I did not argue using philosophy, I relied only on the power of God's Spirit. I wanted to show you this power so that your faith will not depend on human philosophy but on God's power.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lord says, 'I am light of the world. Any person that follows me will have the light of life.'

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its taste, then it is finished as salt. It is good no more. It must be thrown away and people trample (walk and crush) on it. You are the light of the world. A city built on top of a hill is not hidden. Everyone can see it. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl. No! People put the lamp on a stand so that it gives light for everybody in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. So other people will see your good works, and they will praise your Father in heaven.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 6th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ECCLESIASTICUS

*Ecclesiasticus 15:15–20*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments. You have the power to follow the laws faithfully. The Lord has given you fire and water. You can choose which you want. In the same way, people have life and death. They can choose which they want. The Lord is very wise. He is almighty and he sees all things. The Lord likes to see good people respecting him. He can see everything people do. The Lord never wants people to be without God. He does not want people to sin.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 118*

RESPONSE: **THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW GOD'S LAW ARE BLESSED.**

**THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW GOD'S LAW ARE BLESSED.**

The people that have no faults in their lives are blessed.

They obey God and keep his laws in their hearts.

Lord, you gave us your laws for us to obey.

Let us walk your way.

**THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW GOD'S LAW ARE BLESSED.**

Bless me and I will live and obey your laws.

Open my eyes so that I see the wonders of your law.

Teach me to understand your rules.

Show me how to obey your law.

**THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW GOD'S LAW ARE BLESSED.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 2:6–10*

We teach wisdom to people that are mature (sensible, wise) but this wisdom is not from this world or from the rulers of this world because their wisdom will fail. We teach God's hidden wisdom. In



# 6th Sunday of the Year

the beginning before the world was created God planned this wisdom for our glory. No rulers from this world knew this. If they had known and understood it, they would never have crucified our Lord of Glory on the cross. As the scriptures (Bible) say:

‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no person has imagined all the things God has prepared for those people that love him.’

God showed us these things through the Spirit. The Spirit can reach deeply and understand even the mystery of God.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, speak to us. We are listening. You have the message of eternal life.

**ALLELUIA!**

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 5:17–37*

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not think that I have come to destroy the law of Moses, or the teaching of the Prophets. I have come, not to destroy the law, but to make the law perfect. I tell you the truth - the law will not disappear until heaven and earth are gone. Nothing in the law will be changed, until everything happens the way God wants. So if any person won’t obey the commandments, and teaches other people to do the same, that person will not be accepted as important in the kingdom of heaven. But if any person follows the commandments and teaches other people to do the same, that person will be accepted as very important in the kingdom of heaven.’

\* Jesus said: ‘I tell you the truth - if your faith and the example of your life are no better than the Pharisees and the scribes

## 6th Sunday of the Year

(writers), you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

You know it was said in the past: Do not kill. If any one kills, that person must be taken to the court. But now, I (Jesus) tell you: if any one is angry with brother or sister, that person will be judged in court.' \*

Jesus said, 'If any one says to brother or sister, "You fool," that person will be taken to a Jewish court. If anyone says to brother or sister, "You two-faced," that person will be in danger of going to the fire of hell. So if you bring your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, then leave your gift in front of the altar, go and make peace with your brother or sister. Then come back and offer your gift to God on the altar. If your enemy takes you to court to sue you, make friends quickly before you arrive at the court. If you don't make friends, your enemy will take you to the judge, and the

judge will give you to the officer, and the officer will throw you into prison. I (Jesus) tell you, you will stay in prison and not get out till you have paid everything that you owe.'

\* Jesus said, 'You know it was said in the past: "You must not commit (do) the sin of adultery." But I (Jesus) tell you, if a man looks at a woman and wants to have sex with her, that man has already done the sin of adultery with the woman in his mind.' \*

Jesus said, 'If your right eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one eye than to have all your body thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to lose one hand than to have all your body go to hell.

You know it was said in the past: Any man that divorces his wife must give a written notice of divorce. But I (Jesus) tell you, if any man divorces his wife, he is

## 6th Sunday of the Year

guilty of making his wife commit (do) the sin of adultery. A man can divorce only when there is fornication (if his wife has sex with another man outside marriage). If a man marries a divorced woman, he is also guilty of adultery.'

\* Jesus said, 'You know it was said in the past: "When you make a vow, do not break it. Keep the vows that you promise to the Lord." But now I (Jesus) tell you, do not make a vow \*

using the name of heaven, because heaven is God's throne. Do not make a vow using the name of the earth, because the earth belongs to God. Do not make a vow using the name of Jerusalem because Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not make a vow using your head, because you cannot change the colour of your hair black or white.

\* Only say "yes" when you want to say "yes". Say "no" when you want to say "no". But if you say

"yes" or "no" and really mean something different, then this comes from the devil.' \*

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 7th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF LEVITICUS**

*Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18*

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the people of Israel:

“I am the Lord your God. I am holy, so you must be holy. You must not hate your brother or sister in your heart. If your neighbour does something wrong, you must openly say so. This way you will not sin. You must not seek revenge. You must not be angry against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour the same as you love yourself. I am the Lord.”

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalms 102*

RESPONSE: **MY LORD IS  
COMPASSION AND LOVE.**

## **MY LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.**

My soul give thanks to the Lord.  
Bless his holy name.  
I will never forget all his blessings.  
He always forgives us.

## **MY LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.**

The Lord heals us.

He saves our life from the grave.

He takes away our sins.

He always gives us his love and  
compassion.

## **MY LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL’S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS**

*1 Corinthians 3:16–23*

You must realise you are God’s temple (house) and God’s Spirit lives in you. If any person destroys the temple of God, God will destroy that person, because God’s temple is holy; and you yourselves are God’s temple.

You must understand that if any of you think you are wise in this world, then you must learn to be a fool before you can become really wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is really foolishness to God. The scriptures (Bible) say: ‘The Lord knows

## 7th Sunday of the Year

people's thoughts; he knows their wisdom is useless.' The scriptures (Bible) also say: 'The arguments of wise people cannot fool God.' So, no one should boast about what they can do. Everything belongs to you: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, now and future - all these things are yours. You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

If any one loves me (Jesus), that person will follow my word. My Father will love that person. My father and I will come to that person.

### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 5:38-48*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You know it was said in the past: "Eye

for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I (Jesus) tell you, if someone hurts you, do not take revenge. If someone hits you on the right cheek, turn and let that person hit the left cheek also. If a person wants to sue you in court to take your shirt, let that person take your coat as well. If someone forces you to walk one mile, go two miles. When someone asks you for something, give! When someone wants to borrow something, lend!

You know it was said in the past: "Love your neighbours and hate your enemies." But I (Jesus) tell you, love your enemies and pray for those that hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. Your Father lets the sun shine on good and bad people. He gives rain to honest and dishonest people. If you love those that love you, why should God reward you? Even the tax-collectors do the same. If you are friendly only with people you like, why think you are better than other people? Even the pagans (non-believers) do the same. So

# 7th Sunday of the Year

you must be perfect, the same as  
your Father in heaven is perfect.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 8th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 49:14–15*

Zion, the people of Jerusalem, said, 'The Lord has left me, the Lord has forgotten me.'

The Lord asks: 'Does a woman forget to feed her baby, or not love the child from her womb? Perhaps they will forget, but I will never forget you.'

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 61*

RESPONSE: **MY SOUL RESTS IN GOD.**

### MY SOUL RESTS IN GOD.

Only God can help me.  
God is my rock, my support.  
With him I stand firm.  
He gives me hope.

### MY SOUL RESTS IN GOD.

Only God can save me.  
He gives me strength and glory.  
Always trust him.  
Give your hearts to him.

### MY SOUL RESTS IN GOD.

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇅ TO CORINTHIANS

*1 Corinthians 4:1–5*

People should think that we are Christ's servants. God has given us his teachings. People expect servants to be good and trustworthy (loyal, faithful). I am not worried if you judge me. I am not worried if the court judges me. I will not even judge myself. My conscience tells me I have done nothing wrong, but that does not prove I am alright. Only the Lord can judge me. You should not make any judgement before the right time. Wait until the Lord comes. He will bring light, and all the things that are hidden in the dark will be seen. The secret thoughts in people's minds will be revealed (shown) for all people to see. Then the time will be right for God to praise people that are good.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

## 8th Sunday of the Year

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, your word is true.  
Consecrate us in the truth.

### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 6:24–34*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'No one can serve two masters at the same time. A person will love God and hate money, or a person will hate God and love money. You cannot serve both God and money.

This is why I tell you not to worry about your life and what to eat. You must not worry about your body or your clothes. Life is more important than food, and the body is more important than clothes! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow, harvest or save food in barns. Your Father in heaven feeds them. And you are worth much more than the birds! Can you live a bit longer by worrying about your life? Why worry about clothes? Look at the

flowers growing in the fields. They do not work to make clothes for themselves. But I tell you, Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as these flowers. If God gives clothes to the grass in the field like this; grass that is here today, gone and burnt in the fire tomorrow, then surely God will look after you more than the flowers, you people with weak faith! So do not worry. Do not say, "What to eat? What to drink? Where to get clothes?" Only the pagans (non-believers) think about these things all the time. Your Father in heaven knows you need food, drink and clothes. Give your life to the kingdom of God, his justice and peace, and God will give you all these things. So do not worry about tomorrow. There will be enough worries tomorrow. Each day has enough problems of its own.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**



# 9th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF DEUTERONOMY**

*Deuteronomy 11:18, 26–28, 32*

Moses said to the people: 'Remember what I said to you. Follow my words in your heart and in your soul. Write my words and keep them on your hands and on your foreheads so that you will remember them.

Today I give you a choice: a blessing or a condemnation. If you obey the commandments of the Lord our God, you will receive a blessing. If you won't obey the commandments of the Lord our God, and will not follow the way I have shown you, if you worship other false gods, you will be condemned.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalms 30*

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU ARE A  
ROCK, YOU PROTECT ME.**

**LORD, YOU ARE A ROCK, YOU  
PROTECT ME.**

Lord, you protect me.  
I will never be ashamed.

In your justice, free me.

Hear my prayer and save me.

**LORD, YOU ARE A ROCK, YOU  
PROTECT ME.**

Lord, look at me, I am your  
servant.

By your love, save me.

All you people, be strong.

have courage and hope in the  
Lord.

**LORD, YOU ARE A ROCK, YOU  
PROTECT ME.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 3:21–25, 28*

In the past, through the Law and the Prophets, God showed his justice, but now God shows us a new way - through faith in Jesus Christ. God wants to show this to all people that believe in Jesus Christ. There is no difference between Jews and pagans (non-believers); before, Jews and pagans (non-believers) sinned and were far from God's glory but

## 9th Sunday of the Year

the free gift of God's grace, through Jesus Christ, made all people right again with God. God offered his Son so that through his blood our sins are forgiven because of faith in him. God shows that people can be forgiven through faith and not by doing something the Law tells us to do.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

#### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

#### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'If any one loves me (Jesus), that person will obey me. My Father will love that person. My Father and I will come to that person.'

#### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 7:21-27*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The people that say "Lord, Lord," will not go to the kingdom of heaven,

but the person that obeys what God wants will enter the kingdom of heaven. On the last day, many people will say to me, "Lord, we preached using your name. We used your name when we threw out devils. In your name we worked many miracles." But I will tell them, "I never knew you. Go away, you wicked people!"

So, anyone that listens to my words and obeys all I say, will be like a sensible person building a house on rock. Rain came down and the waters rose. Strong winds blew and hit the house, but the house did not fall. The house was founded (built) on rock. Any one that listens to my words but does not obey all I say, will be like a stupid man that built his house on sand. Rain came down, and the waters rose. Strong winds blew and hit the house, and the house fell. That house was completely destroyed!'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

#### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 10th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF HOSEA

*Hosea 6:3–6*

Let us try to know the Lord. He will come to us, the same as we know the sun will rise up in the morning; the same as we know the spring rains will come down to earth.

But the Lord will say: 'What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is the same as a morning cloud, it disappears; like the dew in the morning that quickly disappears. That is why I sent prophets to warn you; that is why I killed the people with my words. Because I want love, not sacrifice. I want people to know me, not give me burnt offerings.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 49*

RESPONSE: **I WILL SHOW GOD'S  
SALVATION TO GOOD PEOPLE.**

**I WILL SHOW GOD'S  
SALVATION TO GOOD PEOPLE.**

The Lord God spoke.  
He said to all the people in the world,  
'Your sacrifices of bulls and goats are alright,  
but I do not need them.'

**I WILL SHOW GOD'S  
SALVATION TO GOOD PEOPLE.**

God said, 'Better give your sacrifice of thanksgiving to me. When you need help, pray to me. I will save you and free you. And you will praise me.'

**I WILL SHOW GOD'S  
SALVATION TO GOOD PEOPLE.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 4:18–25*

It was really not possible for Abraham to become a father and have children. But Abraham believed in God and he hoped. That is why Abraham became the father of many nations (peoples) because God promised him, 'Your descendants (future generations) will be as many as the stars.' Abraham thought he could not

# 10th Sunday of the Year

become a father because he was about a hundred years old. His wife, Sarah, was also too old to become a mother. But they did not give up their belief in God. Because God promised, Abraham believed and he never doubted that God would do all that he had promised. Abraham's faith gave him strength and he praised God. Abraham really believed that God had the power to do all that He (God) had promised. Abraham's faith in God made him right with God. The scripture (Bible) says the same about us, that if we have faith and believe in Jesus, believe that he died for our sins, and rose to life to save us, then God, too, will be good to us. Our faith will make us right with God.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, open our hearts to accept the words of your Son.

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 9:9-13*

Jesus was walking, and he saw a man named Matthew sitting outside the tax office. Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.' Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

Later, Jesus was eating in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw them, they said to Jesus' disciples, 'Why does your master, Jesus, eat with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus heard this and he said to the Pharisees, 'Healthy people do not need the doctor. Sick people need a doctor. You go and find out what the scripture (Bible) means: "I want mercy, not sacrifice." I came into the world, not to invite good people, but to invite sinners.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 11th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EXODUS**

*Exodus 19:2–6*

The people of Israel left Rephidim, and went into the Sinai desert. They camped at the mountain of Sinai. Moses went up the mountain to meet God. God said to him, ‘Tell these things to the people of Israel, the family of Jacob: “You saw what I did to the people of Egypt. Like an eagle, I carried you from Egypt and brought you here. Now, if you obey me and follow my covenant (promise), you will be my people. The whole world belongs to me, and you will be my chosen people. You are specially blessed, you will become a kingdom of priests and you will serve me.”’

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalms 99*

RESPONSE: **WE ARE HIS PEOPLE,  
HIS SHEEP.**

### **WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, HIS SHEEP.**

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come to the Lord, singing with joy. We know He is our Lord. He is our God.

### **WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, HIS SHEEP.**

God made us, we belong to him. We are his people, his sheep. The Lord is always good and merciful. He is faithful forever.

### **WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, HIS SHEEP.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 5:6–11*

Christ, at the right time, died for us sinners while we were still lost. It is not easy to die for another person, even for a good person. If a person is very good, someone might (perhaps) be willing to die for that good person. But Christ died for us when we were really sinful people. This proves that God really loves us. By Christ’s death we are now reconciled with God. Christ will not fail to save us from God’s anger. Before we were each other’s enemies, but through the death of his Son,

# 11th Sunday of the Year

God made us friends again. Now that we are God's friends, we can be sure we are saved. We rejoice because of what God has done for us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lord says, 'The sheep that follow me, listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.'

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 9:36 – 10:8*

Jesus saw the crowds and felt sorry for them because they were in trouble and lost, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is ready, but the workers are few. So pray and ask the Lord to send more workers to help gather his harvest.'

Jesus called the twelve disciples to come together, and he gave

them the power to throw out evil spirits, and to heal all different diseases and sickness.

The names of the twelve apostles are: first, Simon named Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon called the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, the person that later betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent out these twelve apostles and told them: 'Do not go to places where pagans (non-believers) live. Do not go to any Samaritan town. But go to the people of Israel, they are the lost sheep. And when you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is very near. Heal the sick people. Raise the dead. Cleanse the lepers. Throw out devils. You received without paying, so give without charging.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 12th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 66*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF JEREMIAH**

*Jeremiah 20:10–13*

Jeremiah said: 'I hear many people whispering against me. I hear them say, "Terror is everywhere. Let us reject him and report him to the authorities!" Those I thought were my friends wanted me to make mistakes and fall. They said, "Let us fool him, then we can catch him and take revenge on him."

But the Lord is with me, he is like a strong soldier, and my enemies that persecute me will fail. Because they fail, they will be ashamed. Lord Almighty, you test people with justice, you know what is in their hearts and minds. So let me see you take revenge on my enemies because I trust you.

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, because he saved the lives of needy people from those evil people.'

**THE WORD OF THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: O GOD, BECAUSE  
YOU LOVE ME, ANSWER MY  
PRAYER.**

**O GOD, BECAUSE YOU LOVE  
ME, ANSWER MY PRAYER.**

I am full of shame.

I suffer for you, Lord.

My people do not know me.

I am a stranger to them.

**O GOD, BECAUSE YOU LOVE  
ME, ANSWER MY PRAYER.**

Lord, I want to be at home with  
you

and pray to you God.

Through your love, listen to my  
prayers.

In your compassion, help me.

**O GOD, BECAUSE YOU LOVE  
ME, ANSWER MY PRAYER.**

When poor people see the love  
of God, they will be glad.

The Lord listens to those in need.

He never forgets the people in  
chains.

Let the heavens and the earth  
praise God.

**O GOD, BECAUSE YOU LOVE  
ME, ANSWER MY PRAYER.**

# 12th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 5:12–15*

Sin is in the world because of one man, Adam. His sin brought death. Death spread to all people in the world because everybody sinned. Sin was in the world long before the Law was given. A long time ago, there was no law, no one could be blamed for the sin. But from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, there was death. All died because of sins, but their sins were not the same as the sin of Adam.

Because of Adam, another person must come, Jesus Christ. But the gift of Jesus Christ is more powerful than the sin of Adam. Many people died because of the sin of one man, Adam; but God's grace is through Jesus Christ. We can be sure that God's grace is the free gift given to everybody through one man, Jesus Christ.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Word (Jesus) became flesh. He lived with us. To people that accepted him, He (Jesus) gave them power to become God's children.

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 10:26–33*

Jesus taught the twelve apostles: 'Do not be afraid. Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be open to all. The things I tell you in the dark, you will tell to all people in the daylight. The things that I tell you in private, you will announce, standing on top of the house, for all people to see.

Do not be afraid of those that can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Better fear God because he can destroy both body and soul in hell. You can buy two birds for a penny. But not one bird can die without your Father knowing. God knows how many hairs you



# 12th Sunday of the Year

have on your head. So, do not be afraid, because you are worth much more than hundreds of birds.

If any person stands in front of other people and proclaims belief in me, then I will do the same and stand in front of my Father in heaven, and tell my Father that this person belongs to me. But if any person stands in front of other people and rejects me (Jesus), then I will do the same, and stand in front of my Father in heaven, and tell my Father that this person does not belong to me.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 13th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL ⇄ OF KINGS

*2 Kings 4:8–12, 14–16*

One day Elisha went to Shunem. An important woman lived in Shunem. She asked Elisha to stop and eat at her house. After this, every time Elisha travelled through this same place, he always stopped there to eat. The woman said to her husband, 'Look, Elisha comes here a lot. I am sure that he is a holy man of God. Let us build a small room for him on the roof. We can put a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp there, so that when he comes he can rest in the room.'

One day Elisha came to the woman's house. He went to the upper room and rested. He asked the servant, Gehazi, 'What can I do to help the woman?' Gehazi said, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Tell her to come here.' Gehazi went and fetched her. The woman stood at the door. Elisha said to her, 'This time next year, you will have a son in your arms.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 88*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I WILL SING  
ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

Lord, I will sing forever about  
your love.

I will always proclaim your truth.

Lord, I know your love will never  
fail,

your truth is eternal.

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

The people are happy with their  
king.

Every day your name makes them  
happy.

Your justice gives them joy.

You give us strength and glory.

**LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT  
YOUR LOVE FOR EVER.**

# 13th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 6:3-4, 8-11*

When we were baptised in Jesus Christ, we were baptised in his death. This means that when we were baptised, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. And because Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, we too will have new life.

But we believe that when we die with Christ, we will come back to life with him. We know Christ rose from death and he will never die again. Death has no more power over Jesus. When Jesus died - he died once, he died for everybody - he has conquered the power of sin. Jesus now has new life with God. In the same way, you must think that you are finished with sin, and alive for God through Jesus Christ.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

O Lord, open our hearts to accept the words of your Son.

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 10:37-42*

Jesus taught the twelve apostles: 'Any person that loves father or mother more than me is not good enough to follow me. Any person that loves son or daughter more than me is not good enough to follow me. Any person that will not carry the cross and follow me is not good enough for me. Any person that wants to keep their own life will lose it (life). Any person that gives up life for me will find true life.

Any person that welcomes you also welcomes me. Those that welcome me also welcome the Father that sent me.

Any person that welcomes a prophet and accepts the prophet will receive the same reward that a prophet receives. Any person

## 13th Sunday of the Year

that welcomes a holy person and accepts the holy person will receive the same reward that a holy person receives.

I tell you the truth, if anyone gives a cup of cold water to these little children, because they want to become my disciples, that person will truly receive a reward.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 14th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ZECHARIAH

*Zechariah 9:9–10*

The Lord says this, 'People of Jerusalem, people of Zion, rejoice! Shout with joy! Look, your king is coming to you. He is powerful and victorious. And he is humble, riding on a donkey, a young donkey. He will destroy chariots (horse men) from Ephraim and Jerusalem. He will throw out bows used in war. He will proclaim peace for the nations (peoples). His kingdom will be all over the land, from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 144*

RESPONSE: **I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

**I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

I will give you glory, O God my king.

Everyday I will praise you forever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion.

Slow to anger, quick to love.

**I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

All your people will thank you, Lord.

They will remember your glory.

The Lord is faithful and loving.

The Lord supports (help) all that are weak.

**I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 8:9, 11–13*

You do not live obeying your body but you should live what the Spirit tells you because God has made his home in you. If any person does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. We know God raised Jesus from death, and if God's Spirit lives in you, then

# 14th Sunday of the Year

through the presence of his Spirit in you, God will also give life to your mortal (weak) bodies.

So, my brothers and sisters, there is no need for us to obey our sinful bodies. We will live if we allow the spirit to help us stop using our bodies in the wrong way.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. We are your children, and you show us the kingdom of God.

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 11:25–30*

Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you hide these things from clever people, and you show these things to children. Yes,

Father, you are happy to do this. My Father gave me everything. No one knows the Son, only the Father. The Father knows the Son. And no one knows the Father, only the Son. He (Jesus) knows the Father, and some people know the Father because the Son reveals (shows) the Father to them.

Come to me all you people that are tired and have heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Accept my yoke and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is not heavy, and the burden I give is light.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 15th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 64*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 55:10–11*

The Lord says, 'The rain and the snow come down from the sky and the water covers the earth, and the water lets crops grow to produce (make) seeds that are used for both sowing and for making bread to eat. Yes, it is the same with my "word"; I send my "word" to do what I want and my "word" will not fail. My "word" will succeed and do all the things I planned to do.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT GREW AND GAVE A GOOD CROP (HARVEST).**

**SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT GREW AND GAVE A GOOD CROP (HARVEST).**

You look after the earth.  
You give water and many beautiful things grow.  
Crops grow and you bless its growth.  
Every year you give plenty of good things.

**SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT GREW AND GAVE A GOOD CROP (HARVEST).**

Joy in the hills, plenty of good grass.  
Joy in the fields, full of sheep.  
Joy in the valleys, full of wheat.  
Yes! Everything shouts with joy, everything sings.

**SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT GREW AND GAVE A GOOD CROP (HARVEST).**

# 15th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 8:18–23*

I think that our sufferings in this life can never be compared to the glory not yet revealed (shown) to us. All creation waits with eager longing (desire) for God to show his children to the world. It was not the fault of creation that it failed, that was planned by God. But there is the hope that creation itself will one day be freed from ruin and slavery and share the freedom and glory that belong to the children of God. We know that everything in creation has been waiting in pain, like a woman ready to give birth. We have the gifts of the Spirit but we wait. And not only creation waits, we also wait with inner pain for our bodies to be freed and receive redemption.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, speak to us. We are listening. You have the message of eternal life.

## ALLELUIA!

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 13:1–23*

\* Jesus left the house and sat near the lake. Large crowds came around Jesus, so Jesus got into a boat and sat down. The people stood on the beach, and Jesus began to teach them many things in parables.

Jesus said, 'Imagine a farmer going out to sow. While the farmer was sowing, some seeds fell on the edge of the path. Birds came and ate all the seeds. Some seeds fell on rocky ground, there was little soil. The seeds grew very quickly, but the sun burnt the plants, and because the plants did not have enough roots, they died. Some seeds fell in thorn bushes, and the thorn



## 15th Sunday of the Year

bushes grew and choked the seeds. Some seeds fell on good rich soil, these seeds grew and gave crops. Some plants made a hundred grains, some sixty, and some thirty. If you want to understand, listen, think carefully about my message.' \*

The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, 'Why do you use parables to teach people?' Jesus said, 'Because you received the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. But not them. Any person that understands some secrets of the kingdom of heaven, will understand more. But those that do not understand the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, they will lose any understanding that they already have. This is why I use the parables to teach them. They look, but they don't really see. They listen and know what I said, but they don't really think carefully or understand what I meant. Isaiah was right about these people, his prophecy has become true:

"You will listen and listen again, but you don't understand. You will see and look again, but you won't understand. The hearts of these people are hard, their ears and eyes are closed. This happened so that they will not see with their eyes, they will not hear and will not understand with their minds, because they are afraid to be converted and healed by me."

Blessed are your eyes because you see, blessed your ears because they hear! I tell you the truth, many prophets and holy people wanted to see the things you now see, but they never saw them. They wanted to hear the things you now receive, but they never heard them.

This is why now you learn what the parable about the sower means. The seeds that fell on the edge of the path are the same as the people that receive the word of the kingdom without understanding. The devil comes and takes away what is in their heart. The seeds that fell on rocky

# 15th Sunday of the Year

ground are the same as those that receive the word and accept with joy. But they have not really lived and followed the word, so when trouble or persecution come, they give up easily. The seeds that fell in the thorn bushes are the same as those that receive the word. But because they worry about the world, and because they are greedy for money, the word stops growing in their hearts; so they do nothing good. The seeds that fell on good rich soil are the same as those that receive the word and understand. They do good things, some a hundred times more, some sixty times more, and some, thirty times more.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 16th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 85*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF WISDOM**

*Wisdom 12:13, 16–19*

Lord, all things are under your care, and there is no other god, only you are God. You do not have to prove that you judge fairly. Your justice is strong. You show mercy to all people because you are Lord of all. When people doubt and question that your power is perfect, you show them your strength. Those that are proud and think they know everything, you punish them. You have great power but you judge us with great mercy. You could judge against us, but instead, you rule us with great patience. Your way teaches us that a good person must be kind to other people. You have given your people great hope by forgiving them their sins.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.**

**LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.**

Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love, you help all that pray to you.

You, Lord, listen to us all.

All people come to adore you, they glorify your name.

**LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.**

Lord, you are kind and merciful, slow to anger, full of love and truth.

Lord, turn and have pity on me.

**LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 8:26–27*

When we are weak, the Spirit comes to help us. When we cannot pray, or don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays to God for us. The Spirit prays without using words, and God knows

# 16th Sunday of the Year

perfectly what the Spirit means. God knows everything in our hearts. The Spirit prays for all people to obey what God wants.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

### ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our minds to understand the hope you gives us.

### ALLELUIA!

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 13:24-43*

\* Jesus told a parable to the crowds of people, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man that sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, the enemy came and sowed weeds in the field, and then the enemy went away. Later, when the new wheat grew, the weeds appeared also. The servant went to the man

and said, "You sowed good seeds in the field? Where did the weeds come from?" The man answered, "An enemy must have come and planted weeds." The servant said, "Do you want me to go and pull out the weeds?" The man answered, "No, because when you pull out the weeds, you might also pull out the good wheat. Better let wheat and weeds grow together. Then when the wheat is ready, I will tell the workers to harvest. I will tell them: first collect the weeds and burn them, then gather the wheat and save it in my barn." \*

Jesus told another parable to the people, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Of all seeds, the mustard seed is the smallest. A man sows a mustard seed in his field. When the seed grows, it becomes the biggest tree of all. The birds from the air come and make nests in the tree.'

Jesus told another parable to the people, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast that a woman

## 16th Sunday of the Year

mixes into a big bowl of flour to make bread. The yeast makes the dough (bread) rise.'

Jesus told many parables to the crowds of people. Jesus would not teach people without using parables. This proved that what the prophet said long ago came true. The prophet said:

'I will teach you using parables. I will explain things that no one knew since the beginning of the world.'

Jesus left the people and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us about the parable of the weeds in the field.' Jesus explained, 'The person that sowed good seeds in the field is the same as the Son of God. The field is the same as the world. The good seeds are the same as all the good people in the kingdom. The weeds are the same as evil people. The enemy that sowed the weeds is the same as the devil. The harvest is the same as the end of the world. The workers are the same as the angels. So when the weeds are

pulled out and burnt, it will be the same at the end of the world. The Son of God will send his angels, and his angels will find all evil people in the world, and throw them into a place of fire. In the fire they will scream and suffer. The good people will shine like the sun. They will be in the kingdom with their Father. If you want to understand, think carefully!'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 17th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF KINGS

*1 Kings 3:5, 7–12*

In Gibeon, Solomon was asleep dreaming. In Solomon's dream, the Lord appeared. God said, 'What would you like me to give you?' Solomon replied, 'Lord, you have made me king to follow my father, David. But I am a very young man, and I don't know how to rule as a good leader. I am your servant, and I'm here with the people that you chose. There are so many people, impossible to count. Give me the wisdom so that I will know how to judge between good and evil. Without your wisdom, it will be impossible to rule your people.' The Lord was pleased with Solomon, and said to him, 'You did not ask for long life for yourself. You did not ask for riches for yourself or to beat your enemies. But you asked for wisdom to make the right decisions. So now I give you the wisdom that you asked for. No one in the past has had this wisdom and understanding like

you, and in the future no one will have wisdom the same as you.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 118*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I LOVE YOUR LAW!**

### LORD, I LOVE YOUR LAW!

Lord, I have decided to obey your word.

Your law means more to me than silver or gold.

Your love comforts me.

Your love helps me to live.

### LORD, I LOVE YOUR LAW!

I love your laws more than gold. I hate false ways.

Your laws are wonderful, that is why I follow you.

Your word gives me wisdom.

### LORD, I LOVE YOUR LAW!

# 17th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 8:28–30*

We know in everything God works for the good of all that love him. God chose those people because that was his plan. God chose those people long ago, before he created the world. And God decided that those people would become true images of his Son, so that his Son would be the eldest of many brothers in God's family. God was just and fair with the people that he chose, and he shared his glory with them.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord said, 'You are my friends because I taught you everything I learnt from my father.'

## ALLELUIA!

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 13:44–52*

\* Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. Someone finds the treasure, hides it and covers it up in the field. That person is happy, sells everything and buys the field.'

Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a salesman looking for precious pearls. One day the salesman found a precious pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and he bought the pearl.' \*

'Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown in the sea. The net catches many different types of fish. When the net is full, the fishermen pull the net to the shore. The fishermen sit down and begin to collect all the good fish in a basket. All the rubbish and bad fish the fishermen throw away. It will be the same at the end of the world. The angels will appear and separate evil people

# 17th Sunday of the Year

from good people. The angels will throw evil people into the fire. In the fire they will scream, cry and suffer.'

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do you understand?' They said, 'Yes.' Then Jesus said, 'Each scribe (writer) that becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house. The owner takes new and old things from his storeroom.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**



# 18th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 55:1–3*

The Lord says: 'All you thirsty people come, drink water! If you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat. Come, drink wine and milk - it will cost you nothing! Why spend money on something that is not food? Why waste money on something that will not satisfy you? Listen to me, and you will have good things. You will enjoy eating good food. Listen carefully to me! Come to me and your soul will live. I made a covenant (promise) with David; now I make a covenant (promise) forever with you.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 144*

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU GIVE US  
ALL GOOD THINGS.**

**LORD, YOU GIVE US ALL GOOD  
THINGS.**

The Lord is kind and full of  
compassion,  
slow to anger, quick to love.  
All living things look to you.  
And you give them their food.

**LORD, YOU GIVE US ALL GOOD  
THINGS.**

The Lord is just and loving.  
All his ways are good.

The Lord is very near to those  
that need his help.

**LORD, YOU GIVE US ALL GOOD  
THINGS.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 8:35, 37–39*

What can separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing! If we have trouble, or worries, or if people persecute (attack) us, or when we are short of food or clothes, or if we are in danger, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Through these difficult times, we have complete (full) victory through the power of Jesus because he loved us.

I am sure nothing can separate us from God's love: not death, not

# 18th Sunday of the Year

life, not angels, not other rulers or powers, nothing that lives now, nothing in the future, nothing above us, nothing below us, or anything in the whole world, nothing can separate us from God's love. God's love is made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessings on the King. He comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven. Hosanna in the highest heavens!

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 14:13-21*

When Jesus heard the news about the death of John the Baptist, he left in a boat, and went to a quiet place. He wanted to be alone, but people knew where Jesus had gone. They left the towns and walked looking for Jesus. Then Jesus arrived at the shore, he saw a large crowd. He

felt pity for them and he healed the sick people.

It was getting dark, the disciples came to Jesus and said, 'This is a quiet place and it's very late. Tell the people to go to the villages, there they can buy some food for themselves.' Jesus replied, 'The people don't have to go. You give them some food to eat.' The disciples said, 'But we only have five loaves and two fish.' Jesus said, 'Bring the bread and the fish to me.' Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke the bread and gave the bread to his disciples. The disciples gave the bread to the people. All the people ate and they were full. There was plenty of bread left over. They collected the scraps and filled twelve baskets. There were about 5,000 men, not including women and children.

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 19th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF KINGS

*1 Kings 19:9, 11–13*

Elijah walked to Horeb, the mountain of God; Elijah went into the cave and stayed there all night. Suddenly the Lord spoke to Elijah, 'Go, stand on the mountain in front of me.' The Lord passed Elijah and a strong wind blew. The wind was so powerful, the mountains shook, and rocks broke into pieces. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a gentle breeze (soft wind). When Elijah heard the sound of the gentle breeze, he pulled his coat over his face. He went out and stood in front of the cave.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 84*

RESPONSE: **LORD, LET US SEE YOUR MERCY, GIVE US YOUR HELP.**

**LORD, LET US SEE YOUR MERCY, GIVE US YOUR HELP.**

I will listen to what the Lord says.  
He speaks about peace.  
He helps people that respect him.  
God gives mercy, justice and peace to the world.

**LORD, LET US SEE YOUR MERCY, GIVE US YOUR HELP.**

The Lord will give us many good things.

On earth many good things will grow.

The Lord's way is just.

His way gives peace.

**LORD, LET US SEE YOUR MERCY, GIVE US YOUR HELP.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 9:1–5*

I speak the truth. I belong to Christ and I do not lie. My conscience, ruled by the Holy Spirit, tells me the truth. I want to

# 19th Sunday of the Year

say that I have great sorrow, and the pain in my heart never stops. I wish I could help my people, my flesh and blood. I would accept the curse of God and be separated from Christ if it could help my brothers and sisters of Israel. They are God's people. God made them his children, he showed his glory to them. He made covenants (God's promises) with them and gave them the Law. They have the true worship, they received God's promises. They are born from the Jewish people of long ago. Christ is also born of the same Jewish family. God rules over all things. Blessed be God for ever! Amen.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessings on the King! He comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven. Hosanna in the highest heavens!

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 14:22–33*

Jesus told his disciples to go in the boat and go to the other side of the lake. Then Jesus told the crowds to go home. After this, Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray. It was getting dark, Jesus was alone and the boat was now far away on the lake. There was a strong wind, and the boat was struggling because of the rough sea. Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to the boat, walking on the water. The disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. They shouted with fear and said, 'It is a ghost!' Immediately Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. It's me (Jesus). Courage (be brave)!' Peter said, 'Lord, if it's really you (Jesus), tell me to come to you on the water.' Jesus said, 'Come.' Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But Peter felt the strong wind, he became frightened and began to sink. Peter shouted, 'Lord, save

# 19th Sunday of the Year

me!’ Jesus quickly put out his hand and caught him. Jesus said, ‘You have little faith. Why did you doubt?’ Then Peter and Jesus got in the boat, and the wind stopped. The men in the boat bowed down in front of Jesus and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 20th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 66*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 56:1, 6–7*

The Lord says, 'Be fair to all people. Do things that are right and just. Why? Because soon I will come and save you. I will show my goodness to the world.'

Foreigners will join the Lord. They will serve him and love his name. All people that keep the Sabbath - the Lord's Day - and do not ignore it, but follow my commandments, these people I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them happy in my house of prayer. The sacrifices they make on my altar will make me satisfied. My temple will be called a house of prayer for all people.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: LET ALL THE  
PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD.**

**LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE  
YOU, O GOD.**

O God, look at us with kindness. Bless us, so that we will know your way.

All nations (peoples) will know you saved us.

Let all the nations (peoples) be glad and rejoice.

**LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE  
YOU, O GOD.**

You rule the world with justice. You guide all people on earth. Let all the people praise you. Let God bless us always.

**LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE  
YOU, O GOD.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 11:13–15, 29–32*

Now I speak to you, you people that are not Jews. I am an apostle and God sent me to non-Jewish people. I am proud of my work with you. I hope I can make my

## 20th Sunday of the Year

own Jewish people jealous so that I can save them. The Jews rejected God because God made friends with non-Jewish people, who knows what this would mean? When God accepts and forgives the Jews, this would be like the resurrection of the dead with people brought back to life. God chose his people, this was the gift or calling that God gave to his people. God never changes his mind and never takes back his gifts.

Before, you non-Jewish people you did not obey God, but now you received mercy because the Jews refused to obey. In the same way, because of the mercy that you received, the Jews that disobeyed God will later change and will receive mercy from God too. God let all people refuse to obey so that He could show mercy to them all.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lord says, 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.'

**ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 15:21–28*

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that area came to Jesus. She shouted, 'Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But Jesus said nothing. The disciples went to Jesus and persuaded him. They said, 'Give her what she wants, because she is shouting and making a lot of noise.' Jesus replied, 'God sent me only to the lost people of Israel.' But the woman came and knelt in front of Jesus. She said, 'Lord, help me!' Jesus answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' The woman replied, 'Yes Lord, but don't forget dogs eat pieces of

## 20th Sunday of the Year

food that fall from the table.’  
Then Jesus answered, ‘Woman,  
you have great faith! I will give  
you what you want.’ At that same  
time, her daughter was well  
again.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**



# 21st Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 22:19–23*

The Lord said to Shebna, the master of the palace:

‘I will throw you out from your office, your important high position and you will lose your job. On the same day I tell my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah, to take over your job. I will take your robe and sash (belt) and give them to him. I will give your authority to him. He will be like a father to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. He will have the key of office; what he opens, no one will shut, and what he shuts, no one will open. I will make him strong, firm like a peg hammered into the ground. From his throne, he will give honour and glory for his father’s house.’

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 137*

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOUR LOVE IS ETERNAL**

**LORD, YOUR LOVE IS ETERNAL**

Lord, I thank you, with all my heart

because you answered my prayers.

I will adore you in front of your holy Temple.

I thank you because you never fail to give me your love.

### **LORD, YOUR LOVE IS ETERNAL**

You answered my prayers and you gave me strength.

The Lord looks after his humble people.

You protect me and save me.

Your love is eternal.

### **LORD, YOUR LOVE IS ETERNAL**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 11:33–36*

God’s gifts are very many and richly generous. His wisdom and knowledge are very deep. It is impossible to understand his way or explain his decisions. Who knows God’s mind? Who could give him advice or help? Who has given God anything? All things are from him. All things are

# 21st Sunday of the Year

created and live through him.  
Glory to God forever! Amen

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

God forgave the world through Jesus Christ. God gave us the Good News of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 16:13–20*

Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is'. The disciples said, 'Some people say you are John the Baptist, other people say you are Elijah, others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' Jesus said, 'But you, who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon,

son of Jonah, you are blessed! Because flesh and blood, human knowledge, did not tell you this, but my Father in heaven told you who I am. So now I say to you: Your name is Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. The powers of hell will not conquer the Church. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you agree on earth shall be (same) agreed in heaven. Anything you prohibit on earth shall be (same) prohibited in heaven.' Then Jesus gave his disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 22nd Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF JEREMIAH

*Jeremiah 20:7–9*

Lord, you fooled me, you are stronger than me, so you won. Everyone laughed at me, they mocked me everyday. Every time I spoke, I had to shout loud: 'Violence and destruction!

I tried to tell people your message but people insulted me and made fun of me. But when I said, "I will forget about the Lord, I will not speak any more for him", your message became like a fire in my heart and trapped in my bones. I tried my best to hold God's message inside me but I could not cope.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 62*

RESPONSE: **O GOD, MY SOUL  
THIRSTS FOR YOU, MY GOD.**

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

You are my God, I need you.  
My body is like a dry land without  
water,

My soul thirsts for you.

Let me see you; see your strength  
and your glory.

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

Your love is better than life.

I will praise you God.

All my life I will pray and raise my  
hands.

My soul will be satisfied because  
you help and protect me.

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 12:1–2*

My brothers and sisters, think  
about God's mercy. I beg you,  
worship God in a way that is  
good and worthy because you  
are people that think carefully.  
Give your lives as a holy sacrifice,  
truly satisfying to God. Do not  
imitate (copy) the people in the  
world, but change your behaviour

## 22nd Sunday of the Year

and attitude with a new mind. This is the only way to find out what God wants, to find out what things are good, and know what is the right thing to do.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our minds to understand the hope you gives us.

### **ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 16:21–27*

Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he himself would go to Jerusalem. He said that he would suffer a lot because of the Jewish priests and the scribes (writers). They would condemn him to death. But on the third day he himself would rise to life. Then Peter spoke to Jesus in private: "You will die? No, this must not

happen to you!" But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Leave me (go away), you Satan (devil)! You are not helping me, because the way you think is the way of the people, not God's way."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If people want to follow me, they must forget themselves, carry their cross and follow me. People that want to save their lives will lose their true life. People that give up their lives for me will find true life. If people win the world, but lose their lives, what is the point? If people want true life, what can we do to have that true life?"

The Son of Man will come again with his Father's glory and with his angels. He will come and give reward to each person depending on what that person has done."

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 23rd Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EZEKIEL

*Ezekiel 33:7–9*

The Lord said to me, ‘Son of man, I appoint you as a guard for the family of Israel. If you hear a warning from me, you must tell the people in my name. If I say that evil people will die but you do not warn them to change their ways so that they can save their lives, then as sinners they will die, but you will be responsible for their death. If you do warn evil people, telling them to repent, and they do not stop sinning, as sinners they will die, but you will not be responsible and you will save your own life.’

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 94*

RESPONSE: **TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

Come, let us praise and thank the Lord!

Let us sing with joy because God saves us.

Come, let us bow and worship him.

Because he is our God, he created us, and we are his people.

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

Listen to God.

Do not let your hearts become hard or stubborn,

Not like the people of long ago in the desert,

they saw God’s work, but they refused to believe in him.

**TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE ROMANS

*Romans 13:8–10*

Try not to owe anything to anyone. The only thing that you will always owe is love. If you love people, you have followed the

# 23rd Sunday of the Year

law. All the commandments: You must not commit (do) the sin of adultery, you must not kill, you must not steal, you must not covet (want the things that belong to other people), and other laws altogether - the Ten Commandments - are really the same as one law: 'You must love other people the same as you love yourself.' Love can not hurt your neighbour. This means that, if you love people, you are following the ten commandments.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, your word is true.  
Consecrate (bless) us in the truth.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 18:15–20*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother does something wrong to you, go and tell him in private. If he listens to you, you have saved

your brother's soul. If he does not listen, bring one or two people with you - two or three witnesses will be able to tell what happened. If your brother refuses to listen to these people, report it to the community. If your brother refuses to listen to the community, then treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

I tell you the truth. Anything you agree on earth shall be (same) agreed in heaven. Anything you prohibit on earth shall be (same) prohibited in heaven.

I tell you again, if on earth two of you agree to ask anything and pray for it, my Father in heaven will give it to you. This is because if two or three people meet in my name (Jesus), I will be there with them.'

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 24th Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 102*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ECCLESIASTICUS**

*Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7*

Anger and resentment are terrible things; sinners have both. The Lord knows your sins, and if you punish someone, the Lord will punish you. If someone hurts you but you forgive them, your sins will be forgiven when you pray. If you are angry with another person, why do you expect compassion from the Lord? You yourself are a sinner, but if you show no pity for another sinner, why do you expect the Lord to show pity to you. Do not forget you are human, if you hold anger or resentment, you have no hope of forgiveness. Think about it! One day you will die, and your body will become like dust. So better stop hating, and follow the commandments. Remember God's covenant (promise) and do not hold a grudge (resent) or get upset about people's faults.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER, QUICK TO FORGIVE.**

**THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER, QUICK TO FORGIVE.**

My soul, thank the Lord!  
Bless his holy name.  
I will never forget all his blessings.  
He always forgives us.

**THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER, QUICK TO FORGIVE.**

The Lord heals us.  
He saves our life from the grave.  
He will not be angry for ever. He loves us.  
He will take away all our sins.

**THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER, QUICK TO FORGIVE.**

# 24th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE ROMANS**

*Romans 14:7–9*

Our lives and death can influence people. If we live, we live for the Lord. If we die, we die for the Lord. So, alive or dead, we all belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ died and rose to life. Christ did this so that He could be Lord over all people, alive or dead.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, speak to us. We are listening. You have the message of eternal life.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 18:21–35*

Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, every time my brother sins against me, how many times

must I forgive him? Seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but more: seventy-seven times.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like a king that decided to collect the money that his servants owed him. The king asked his servants to come and see him. The first servant owed the king ten thousand coins, but he could not pay back, he had no money. So the king said that the servant should sell his house, his things, his wife and children, to pay off the bill. But the servant fell on his knees and begged, "Give me time, and I will pay back the money." The king felt pity for the servant, so he let him go free and cancelled the bill. This servant went out and he met another servant that owed him one hundred coins. The first servant grabbed the other servant at the throat and choked him. He said, "Give me the money that you owe me." But the other servant fell on his knees and begged him, "Give me time, and I will pay back the money." But the first servant



## 24th Sunday of the Year

refused to wait, and he threw him into prison. The other servants saw this and they were upset. So they went and reported everything to the king. Then the king called the first servant and said to him, "You wicked servant, you begged me to forgive you, and I cancelled your bill. You should have done the same to the other servant and forgiven him, the same as I forgave you." The king was angry. He sent the servant to prison to be punished till he could pay back all the money he owed to the king.' Then Jesus said, 'My father in heaven will do the same as the king, so each of you must truly forgive your brother.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 25th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 55:6–9*

Search (look) for the Lord before it is too late. Pray to him while he is still near. Let the wicked people give up their ways, and change their evil thoughts. Let them turn back to the Lord, and the Lord will have pity on them; our God is full of mercy. The Lord says, 'My thoughts and my ways are not the same as your thoughts and your ways. The heavens are so high above the earth. In the same way, my thoughts are so high above your thoughts, my ways are so high above your ways.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 144*

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS NEAR  
TO THOSE THAT PRAY TO HIM.**

**THE LORD IS NEAR TO THOSE  
THAT PRAY TO HIM.**

I will praise you and your name  
for ever.

No one can measure your great  
love.

The Lord is kind and full of  
compassion.

Slow to anger, quick to love.

**THE LORD IS NEAR TO THOSE  
THAT PRAY TO HIM.**

The Lord is good.

He is compassionate to all his  
people.

The Lord's way is good and fair.

He is very near to those that  
really need his help.

**THE LORD IS NEAR TO THOSE  
THAT PRAY TO HIM.**

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

*Philippians 1:20–24, 27*

My deep wish and hope is that in  
my duty I will not fail Christ, and  
that always, especially now, I will

# 25th Sunday of the Year

be full of courage so that through my body I can give glory to Christ, either by my life or by my death. To me, it does not matter if I live or die, to me the most important thing is Christ. If by living in this body, I will be able to work for the Lord, I will accept. But I wish I could die so that I could be with Christ. It is difficult to choose which is better. But I know you need me, so it is better for me to stay alive here with you.

The most important thing in your daily life is that you follow the gospel of Christ.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessings on the King! He comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven. Hosanna in the highest heavens!

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 20:1–16*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner, a rich man, that went out very early in the morning looking for workers for his vineyard (grape-field). The man agreed to pay one silver coin to each worker for one day. He sent them to work in his vineyard (grape-field). At nine o'clock in the morning the rich man went out again. He saw some people in the market place standing idle, doing nothing. He said to them, "You go and work in my vineyard (grape-field), and I will pay you a fair wage." So they went. Then at twelve o'clock, midday, and again at three o'clock in the afternoon, the rich man went out and asked more men to work in his vineyard (grape-field). At about five o'clock, the man went out again and found more people standing. He said to them, "Why are you standing here, doing nothing." They said to him, "Because no one gave us a job." So the rich

## 25th Sunday of the Year

man said to them, "You go and work in my vineyard (grape-field)." In the evening, the rich man said to his manager, "Tell the workers to come. Pay them their wages. First, pay those that started to work late in the afternoon. Then the workers that began work early in the morning, pay them last." So the workers that started to work late afternoon came, and they received one silver coin each. Then the workers that began to work early in the morning came, and they expected to receive more money. But they also received one silver coin each. They grumbled, and said to the rich man, "Those that started late in the afternoon only worked for one hour. You paid them one silver coin each. We worked hard all day in the hot sun, but you pay us, one silver coin each, the same as them!" The rich man answered one of them, "My friend, you remember this morning we both agreed that I would pay you one silver coin? I am being fair. Take your money and go. I can decide

how much I want to pay workers. It is my decision, my money. Why are you jealous because I am generous?" So the people that are last will be first, and the people that want to be first will be last.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 26th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EZEKIEL

*Ezekiel 18:25–28*

The Lord said, 'You object and you say "The Lord is not fair." Now I tell you, family of Israel, listen to me: You are the people that do not live the right way. When good people change, start doing evil and then they die, they die because of the evil they have done. When people stop sinning and live the right way, their lives will be saved. If they stop sinning, they will certainly live, they will not die.'

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalms 24*

RESPONSE: **LORD, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.**

## LORD, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.

Lord, teach me your ways.  
Help me to live with the truth.  
Because you God, you are my Saviour.  
Do not remember my sins, but give me your love.

## LORD, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.

The Lord is truly good.  
He shows the right way to sinners.  
He leads humble people the right way.  
He teaches his way to the poor.

## LORD, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.

[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

*Philippians 2:1–11*

\* I ask you: what does our life in Christ mean to you? Does love mean anything to you? Do we share the same Spirit? Do you have kindness and mercy for other people? Are these things important to you? If you believe this, you will make me very happy. I want you all to have the same thoughts that we have. I want you to be together with the same love in your hearts that we have. Agree with each other, do not get involved in competition.

## 26th Sunday of the Year

Everybody must not boast (proud) but be humble. Always think other people are better than yourselves. Don't be selfish, don't think about yourself, but think about helping other people. You must have the same attitude as Jesus Christ: \*

Jesus Christ was holy. Jesus was God but he gave up his power as God to become the most humble of all people. He became a slave. He became human the same as all people, and he lived as a man. He became so humble that he accepted death, death on a cross. But God raised him to the highest heaven. God gave him the name that is more important than all other names. So everybody, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, will kneel down and honour the name of Jesus. All will praise God the Father and say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

If any person loves me (Jesus), that person will follow my word. My Father will love that person. My Father and I will come to him.

**ALLELUIA!**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 21:28–32*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the Jewish leaders, 'Tell me what you think: a man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My son, go and work in the vineyard (grape-field) today." The son answered, "I will not go," but later he thought about it and changed his mind. He went to work. The man went to the second son and asked him to work. This son answered, "Yes, I will go," but he never went to work. Which of the two sons obeyed his father?' The chief priests and the Jewish leaders said, 'The first son.' Jesus said to them, 'Yes, I tell you the truth, tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the

## 26th Sunday of the Year

Kingdom of God before you. Because John the Baptist came showing you the right way. He was a good man, but you did not believe him. The tax collectors and prostitutes were sinners, but they believed him (John the Baptist). You knew that, but you refused to change your minds and believe in John the Baptist.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 27th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

*Isaiah 5:1–7*

Now I will sing to my friend. This song is about my friend and his love for his vineyard (grape-field). My friend had a vineyard (grape-field) in a rich field on a hill. He dug the soil, threw away the stones, and planted the best grapevines. In the middle of the field, he built a wine press and a watchtower. He waited for the field to grow good grapes but only sour grapes grew. You people of Jerusalem, you people of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. Is there anything I failed to do? Why did the vineyard grow sour grapes and not good grapes as I expected? Well, I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away the hedge around the vineyard, I will knock down the wall, I will let wild animals come in and trample on it. I will not prune the vines, I will not dig the ground, it will become a wasteland. Weeds and thorns will overgrow. I will tell the clouds not

to rain on it. Yes, this vineyard is the same as the House of Israel. The grapevines are the same as the people of Judah. I, the Lord, expected people to do good but people continue to fight and kill. I, the Lord, expected justice but I hear cries of suffering.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 79*

RESPONSE: **GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE. HE CHOSE THEM.**

**GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE. HE CHOSE THEM.**

Lord, you brought a vine, your people, out of Egypt.

You planted the vine in the promised land.

Why did you pull down the walls that protected the vine?

People came and destroyed the vineyard.

**GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE. HE CHOSE THEM.**



# 27th Sunday of the Year

Turn to us again, Almighty God,  
we beg you.

Look down from heaven and  
protect us, we are your vine.  
We will never leave you again.  
Show us your mercy and we will  
be saved.

**GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE. HE  
CHOSE THEM.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

*Philippians 4:6–9*

Don't worry about anything. If  
you need anything, pray and ask  
God. Every time you pray, always  
thank God. God's peace, which  
really is so great that we cannot  
understand it, will guard your  
minds and hearts in Jesus Christ.  
Brothers and sisters, fill your  
minds with all the things that are  
good and true. Fill your minds  
with all the things that are right,  
pure (clean), beautiful,  
honourable, and worthy of praise.  
Continue to do the things that  
you learnt from me. Remember  
all the things that I taught you,

and remember all the things you  
saw me do. Then the God of  
peace will be with you.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Jesus said, 'You are my friends,  
because I taught you everything I  
learnt from my Father.'

**ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 21:33–43*

Jesus said to the chief priests and  
the Jewish leaders, 'I tell you  
another parable. There was a  
landowner, a rich man, that had  
his own field. He grew grapes in  
his field. He built a fence around  
his field. He dug a hole for a wine  
press and he built a tower. Then  
the rich man hired some workers  
to look after it and work the  
vineyard and he went abroad.  
Later the grapes were fully grown

## 27th Sunday of the Year

and ready, the rich man asked some of his servants to collect the grapes. But the workers grabbed the servants, beat one servant, threw stones at another servant and killed another servant. The rich man sent more servants, but the workers did the same again, they beat and killed the servants. So in the end the rich man decided to send his son. He said, "They will respect my son." But the workers saw the son, and they said to each other, "This is the son of the landowner, the rich man, if we kill him, the field will be ours!" So the workers grabbed the son, threw him out of the field, and killed him.' Jesus asked, 'When the master comes, what will he do to the workers?' The chief priests and the Jewish leaders said, 'The master will surely punish those evil workers and they will die. The master will give the job to other people that will work in the field and make sure the grapes are given to the master at the right time.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you read in the scriptures (Bible):

"The stone that the builders threw away, became the important corner stone. The Lord did this and it is wonderful for us to see."

I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you, and given to the people that will do all the things God wants.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

### **PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

# 28th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 25:6–10*

On this mountain, the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet of rich food and good wines for all peoples. On this mountain he will take away sadness from all the people in the land. The Lord will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away tears from their faces and he will take away their shame. This will happen because the Lord said it would. On that day, people will say, 'The Lord is our God. We trusted him and we hoped that he would save us. We rejoice because he has saved us. The hand of the Lord protects this mountain.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalms 22*

**RESPONSE: I WILL LIVE IN THE  
LORD'S HOUSE FOR EVER AND  
EVER.**

**I WILL LIVE IN THE LORD'S  
HOUSE FOR EVER AND EVER.**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
He gives me everything I need.  
He lets me rest in green fields.  
He leads me to calm pools of  
fresh water to give me strength.

**I WILL LIVE IN THE LORD'S  
HOUSE FOR EVER AND EVER.**

He guides me along the right  
way.

He is faithful.

If I walk in the dark, I should not  
be afraid.

Because the Lord, with his  
shepherd's crook (stick), will  
protect me.

**I WILL LIVE IN THE LORD'S  
HOUSE FOR EVER AND EVER.**

The Lord prepared a banquet  
(feast) for me.

Lord, you anointed my head with  
oil; my cup is full.

Goodness and kindness will be  
with me always.

I will live in the Lord's house for  
ever and ever.

**I WILL LIVE IN THE LORD'S  
HOUSE FOR EVER AND EVER.**

# 28th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

*Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich. From my experience I've learnt to be patient. Now I am ready to go anywhere and I will accept if I'm hungry or full. I will accept if I'm poor or have plenty of things. I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength. When I was in difficulties and poor, you were good to me and you helped me. So I now thank you by asking God to give you all the things that you need. He will be generous to you through Jesus Christ. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Word (Jesus) became flesh. He lived with us. To people that accepted him, He (Jesus) gave them power to become God's children.

## ALLELUIA!

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*Matthew 22:1–14*

\* Jesus said to the chief priests and Jewish leaders, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king preparing a wedding feast for his son. The king sent his servants to bring all the people that were invited to the wedding. But the people would not come. So the king sent some more servants. The king said to his servants, "Tell all the people I have invited. My feast is ready. I killed my best bulls and calves. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding celebration." The servants went and told the people to come, but they were not interested. One person went

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to his farm, another person went to his business, and others grabbed the servants, tortured (fight/beat) them and killed them. The king was furious. He sent his soldiers to kill those murderers and burn their town. Then the king said to his servants, "The wedding is ready. I invited those people but they were not worthy to come to my feast. So now you go into the streets and invite anyone you see." So the servants went out and brought many people, both good and bad. The wedding hall was full of people.' \*

'Later the king went to see all the people that came to the feast, he saw one man there not wearing the right clothes for the wedding. The king said to him, "My friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?" The man said nothing. Then the king said to his servants, "Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the dark. There in the dark he will suffer and cry."' "

Jesus said, 'Many people are invited, but few are chosen.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 29th Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 45:1, 4–6*

The Lord said to Cyrus, his anointed king, 'I took your right hand, I sent you to conquer countries and to take power from the other kings, and force open the gates of their cities. I appoint you to help my servant Jacob and my chosen people of Israel. I call you, Cyrus, by name. You do not know me but I give you a title. I am the Lord God, there is no other god. You do not know me but I give you the strength that you need, so that people all over the world will know that I am the Lord, and that there is no other god.'

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalms 95*

RESPONSE: **GIVE THE LORD  
GLORY AND POWER.**

**GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND  
POWER.**

Sing to the Lord!

Tell all people about his glory.

The Lord is great and wonderful.

He made the heavens.

**GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND  
POWER.**

Families and peoples, give glory  
and power to the Lord.

Worship the Lord in his temple.

Tell everyone: God is King.

He will be fair to all people.

**GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND  
POWER.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE THESSALONIANS**

*1 Thessalonians 1:1–5*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church people in Thessalonica. You are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We wish you grace and peace.

We always pray to God, remembering you in our prayers and we thank God for you all. We always remember that you have shown your faith and that you worked for love. We thank God

# 29th Sunday of the Year

for your strong faith and that you continued with patience and with hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we know that God loves you. He has chosen you. When we brought the Good News to you, we did not bring words only, but the power, the truth, and the Holy Spirit.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, your word is true.  
Consecrate (bless) us in the truth.

**ALLELUIA!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL  
OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 22:15–21*

The Pharisees went away to make plans about how to trap Jesus saying something wrong. The Pharisees sent some of their men with some members of Herod's group to meet Jesus. They asked

him, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man. You teach about God in the right way. You are not afraid of any person, and people that are very important, highly promoted, mean nothing to you. Tell us what you think: Should we pay taxes to Caesar? Yes or no?' Jesus knew their evil plan and said to them, 'You hypocrites (two-faced)! Why are you trying to trap me and make me say something wrong? You pay the tax with money - let me see the coin.' They gave him the coin. Jesus looked at the coin and said, 'Whose face? Whose name?' They answered, 'Caesar's, the Roman Emperor.' Jesus said to them, 'Well, pay Caesar the money that belongs to him. And give to God all the things that belong to God.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 30th Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EXODUS

*Exodus 22:20–26*

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the people of Israel:

"You must not oppress or hurt a foreigner, because remember, long ago you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. You must not be too hard with the widow, or with children without parents. If you are too hard with them, they will cry out to me, and I will hear their suffering. I will be angry and I will kill you with the sword. Your wives will become widows and your children will have no parents.

If one of my people is poor, and you lend money, you must not charge, or demand interest.

If you take another person’s coat as a promise, you must give the coat back before evening. Because without the coat, they will become cold during the night and will have nothing to keep warm. If that person has no coat and cries to me, I will listen, because I am full of pity."

## THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*Psalm 17*

RESPONSE: **LORD, I LOVE YOU.  
YOU GIVE ME STRENGTH.**

**LORD, I LOVE YOU. YOU GIVE  
ME STRENGTH.**

I love the Lord.

He is my rock, my saviour.

He protects me like a shield; He helps me.

He saves me from my enemies; praise the Lord!

**LORD, I LOVE YOU. YOU GIVE  
ME STRENGTH.**

The Lord will live for ever.

Praise to God because he saves me.

He gives me victories over my enemies.

He has shown his love for his anointed king.

**LORD, I LOVE YOU. YOU GIVE  
ME STRENGTH.**



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## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS**

*1 Thessalonians 1:5–10*

When we were with you, you saw how we lived. We wanted to show you the right way of living. You copied us and you followed the Lord. You suffered from persecution but with the joy of the Holy Spirit you accepted the gospel. You gave a good example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's teaching spread from you, not only to the people in Macedonia and Achaia but to other places. News of your faith in God spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it, they tell us about the work that we started with you; they tell us that you stopped worshipping false gods, that you changed and now serve the real, living God, and that you are now waiting for Jesus Christ, God's Son risen from the dead, to come from heaven and save us from God's judgement and punishment that will happen on the last day.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

O Lord, open our hearts to accept the words of your Son.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 22:34–40*

The Pharisees heard that Jesus had said things that made the Sadducees quiet, so they met together. One of the Pharisees asked Jesus a question to try and make him confused. He said, 'Master, which commandment in the Law is the most important?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second commandment is: You must love your neighbour the same as you love yourself. The

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full Law of Moses and the teachings of the Prophets come from these two commandments.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 31st Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 130*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF MALACHI**

*Malachi 1:14 – 2:2, 8–10*

The Lord says: ‘In all countries, people respect my name and the fact that I am king. This warning is for you priests. If you do not listen, if you do not praise my name, I will curse you. You receive and give your blessings but I will curse all blessings you received and gave. You stopped following me. You teach other people to do wrong things. You broke the Covenant (God’s promise) I made with you. I, the Lord, will force all the people of Israel to shun (shame, push with elbow) you because you do not obey me. You gave bad example and wrong teaching so people lost faith.

You know we all have the same Father. You know God created us. So why did you do bad things to your people. Why do you not respect the Covenant (God’s promise) that God made with our people long ago?’

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: LORD, KEEP MY  
SOUL IN PEACE.**

**LORD, KEEP MY SOUL IN  
PEACE.**

Lord, my heart is not proud,  
my eyes not snobbish.  
I do not want great things,  
things beyond me.

**LORD, KEEP MY SOUL IN  
PEACE.**

Truly my soul rests in silence and  
peace.

Like a baby full fed on its mother,  
my soul within me, will be the  
same, full fed.

**LORD, KEEP MY SOUL IN  
PEACE.**

Israel, wait for the Lord,  
now and for ever.

**LORD, KEEP MY SOUL IN  
PEACE.**

# 31st Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS**

*1 Thessalonians 2:7–9, 13*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we looked after you. We loved you and protected you. And because we loved you so much, we were ready to share with you the Good News. Also we were ready to give our lives to you. Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, that we worked hard every day and every night. We did not want to give you the extra burden of looking after us while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Also, we thank God because the Good News that we brought you, you accepted as God's message. You believed the Good News was God's message, not man's word. And God's message is still a living power within you.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Lord, speak to us. We are listening. You have the message of eternal life.

## **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 23:1–12*

Jesus spoke to the people and to his disciples: 'The Pharisees and the scribes (writers) have the authority to tell you about the Law of Moses. So you must obey and follow everything they tell you to do. But do not copy the behaviour of the Pharisees and the scribes (writers). They themselves don't do what they tell you to do. They make heavy burdens and give them to the people. But will they help the people? No, they never help! They do everything to get attention so that people will see them. They show off their long special prayer-clothes and prayer-things, like bigger boxes with the scriptures (Bible) inside,

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on their foreheads and arms. They want the best seats at banquets (feasts) and at the front in the synagogues. They want people to show respect to them in the market-places, and they enjoy people calling them "Rabbi".

Jesus said, 'You must not let other people call you Rabbi. Why? Because you have only one Master. You are all brothers and sisters. You must not call any person here on earth your father. Because you have only one Father in heaven. You must not let any person call you teacher, because you have only one Teacher, the Messiah. The greatest person among you must become a humble servant. Any person that wants to be first and think themselves important will receive the last, lowest place. Any person that is really humble will receive the first and best place.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# 32nd Sunday of the Year

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF WISDOM

*Wisdom 6:12–16*

Wisdom shines bright and never becomes dim (dark). Those that love wisdom and want to look for her, easily find her. For those that want her, wisdom is quick to show herself to them. If you get up early in the morning, to find wisdom you will have no problem, you will find her sitting at your gate. If you focus on wisdom, you will have perfect understanding. If you look for wisdom you will have peace of mind. Wisdom herself walks about looking for those worthy of her, she will show herself to you. Wisdom is kind and she will be with you in all your thoughts.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Psalm 62*

RESPONSE: **O GOD, MY SOUL  
THIRSTS FOR YOU, MY GOD.**

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

You are my God, I need you.

My body is like (same) a dry land  
without water,

My soul thirsts for you.

Let me see you; see your strength  
and your glory.

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

Your love is better than life.

I will praise you God.

All my life I will pray and raise my  
hands.

My soul will be satisfied because  
you help and protect me.

**O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR  
YOU, MY GOD.**

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[Short form read between \*.....\*]

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

\* Brothers and sisters, we want you to know the truth about people that have died, so that you will not be very sad, like those people that think there is no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. We believe it will be the same for those that have died: if they believed in Jesus, God will bring them to be with him. \*

We can tell you now because the Lord Jesus himself taught us. When the Lord comes on the last day, if we are still alive, it will not mean we have a better chance than those that have already died. The archangel will blow the trumpet and give a loud shout, the Lord himself will then come down from heaven. Those that have died believing in Jesus Christ will be the first to rise. And we that are still living then, will be taken up in the clouds, together

with all the dead now risen, to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. We will stay with the Lord for ever. So every time we think about this, we should encourage and comfort each other.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know when the Lord will come.

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 25:1–13*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like the ten bridesmaids that took their lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom. Five bridesmaids were foolish, they took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The other five bridesmaids were wise, they took

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their lamps and also flasks of oil. The bridegroom was late, and all ten bridesmaids became tired and they fell asleep. At midnight someone shouted, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." All the bridesmaids woke up and they checked their lamps. The foolish bridesmaids said to the wise bridesmaids, "Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out!" The five wise bridesmaids replied, "There is not enough oil for all of us. So you must go and buy some more oil for yourselves." The foolish bridesmaids went out to buy some more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five wise bridesmaids were ready, they went with the bridegroom into the wedding hall and the door was closed. Later the five foolish bridesmaids arrived; they said, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us." But the bridegroom replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you." Then Jesus said, 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day

or the hour when the Lord will come.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**



# 33rd Sunday of the Year

*Psalm 127*

## **A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF PROVERBS**

*Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31*

It is very difficult to find a perfect wife. She is worth more than jewels!

Her husband has confidence in her, and she will make him rich. All her life she will do good things for her husband; she will not hurt him or bring him trouble. She is always busy making wool and cloth. She makes her own thread and weaves her own cloth. She gives to poor people; she supports those that need help. Charm and beauty can fool you, but we should praise a wise woman. It is right to openly praise and reward her because she has done good things.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSE: BLESSED ARE THEY  
THAT RESPECT THE LORD.**

**BLESSED ARE THEY THAT  
RESPECT THE LORD.**

Blessed are the people that show respect to the Lord.

Blessed are they that walk God's way.

Because you work hard you will eat.

You will enjoy good things.

**BLESSED ARE THEY THAT  
RESPECT THE LORD.**

Your wife will be like a vine, full of good fruit.

Your children around your table will be strong like olive trees.

The Lord will bless you,  
everyday of your life!

**BLESSED ARE THEY THAT  
RESPECT THE LORD.**

# 33rd Sunday of the Year

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS**

*1 Thessalonians 5:1–6*

Brothers and sisters, we don't have to write to tell you about when the Lord will come again. You yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come suddenly, like a thief that comes at night. People will say, 'Everything is quiet and safe,' then suddenly something bad will happen; like a pregnant woman that experiences sudden labour pains. When the Day of the Lord comes, no one can escape.

But you, my brothers and sisters, you are not living in the dark. You should not be surprised if that Day of the Lord comes like a thief. Why? Because you are sons and daughters of light. You belong to the day. We do not belong to the night (dark) or to evil things. So we should not be sleeping like other people sleep, but we should stay awake and sober (not drunk).

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

The Lords says, 'If you have to die, be faithful and I will give you the crown of life.'

## **ALLELUIA!**

[Short form read between \*....\*]

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 25:14–30*

\* Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master that decided to go abroad. Before he left, he told his servants to look after his house and his land. Because each servant had different skills, the master gave five gold coins to the first servant, two gold coins to the second servant, and one gold coin to the third servant. Then the master went away. \*

The first servant that received five gold coins immediately went and used the money well, selling and buying, and made a profit of five more gold coins. The second servant with two gold coins also

## 33rd Sunday of the Year

made a profit of two more gold coins. But the third servant with the one gold coin went and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

\* After a long time, the master came home. The master asked each servant what they had done with his money. The first servant said, "Master, you gave me five gold coins. I made a profit of five more gold coins for you." The master said, "Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You did well with small things, so now I will trust you with bigger things. Come and share with me my happiness." \*

The second servant said, "Master, you gave me two gold coins. I made a profit of two more gold coins for you." The master said, "Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You did well with small things, so now I will trust you with bigger things. Come and share with me my happiness." Then the third servant with the

one gold coin said, "Master, I know that you are a hard man. You harvested crops that you yourself did not sow. I was afraid, so I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the gold coin you gave me, now I give it back to you." But the master said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant! You knew I harvested crops that I myself did not sow. You should have put the money in the bank so that after I came back I could have got more money from the interest." Then the master said, "Take the money from him and give it to the servant that has five gold coins because any person that uses things well, will receive more. But any person that does not use things well, all the things they have will be taken away." Then the master said, "This lazy servant, throw him out in the dark! There, in the dark, he will suffer and cry."

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**

# Christ the King

Psalm 22

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EZEKIEL

*Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17*

The Lord says: ‘I, myself, will look after my sheep. I will watch over them the same way a shepherd looks after his sheep. A shepherd stands in the middle to make sure he can see all his sheep. I will do the same. The sheep that are lost in the mist (fog) and darkness, I will bring them back safely. I myself will feed my sheep in the fields. I will show them where to rest. I, the Lord, said this. I will look for the lost sheep and bring it back. I will bandage the wounded (hurt) and make the weak strong. I will watch over the fat and healthy. I will be a true shepherd to them.

I, the Lord, tell you: I will judge each of you and separate the good and the bad. I will separate the sheep from the goats.’

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
He gives me everything I need.  
He lets me rest in green fields.  
He leads me to calm pools of fresh water to give me strength.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

He guides me along the right way.

He is faithful.

If I walk in the dark, I should not be afraid.

Because the Lord, with his shepherd’s crook (stick), will protect me.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.**

The Lord prepared a banquet (feast) for me.

Lord, you anointed my head with oil; my cup is full.

# Christ the King

Goodness and kindness will be with me always.

I will live in the Lord's house for ever and ever.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.  
HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I  
NEED.**

## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE CORINTHIANS**

*1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28*

Christ has been raised from death, the first person of all that have died and the first of all people that will be raised from death. Death happened because of one man - Adam. In the same way, the resurrection from the dead will happen to people because of one man - Christ. In Adam, all of us die. In Christ, all of us will be raised to life. First, Christ was raised from the dead; then after Christ comes again, all those believers that belong to him will be raised. After that, the end will happen: Christ will destroy all rulers, authorities and

powers, then Christ will give the kingdom to God the Father. Christ must rule as king until he puts all his enemies under him. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. God will put all things under Christ's control. And after all things have been put under Christ's control, then he himself, the Son, will put himself under God's control. Then God will rule completely over all.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

Blessings on Jesus coming in the name of the Lord! Blessings on Jesus from the family of King David!

### **ALLELUIA!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

*Matthew 25:31–46*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes again in

# Christ the King

great glory, all the angels will be with him. He will sit on his royal throne. All the people of the world will come in front of him, and he will separate the people into two groups, as a shepherd that separates sheep from goats. The Son of Man, now King, will put the sheep (good people) on his right and the goats (bad people) on his left. The King will say to those good people on his right, "Come. My Father has blessed you. Come and receive the kingdom that God had promised at the beginning of the world. Because I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked without clothes and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me." The good people will answer, "Lord, you said you were hungry and we gave you food; when did we give you food? You said you were thirsty and we gave you drink; when did we give you drink? You said you were a

stranger and we welcomed you; when did we welcome you? You said you were naked without clothes and we gave you clothes; when did we give you clothes? You said you were sick or in prison and we came to visit you; when did we visit you?" The King will answer, "I tell you the truth, anything you did to help the poorest of my people, you did the same to me."

Then the King will say to those people on his left, "Go away you wicked people! Go into the fire prepared for the devil and his angels, the fire that will never stop burning. Because I was hungry and you never gave me food. I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you never welcomed me. I was naked without clothes and you never gave me anything to wear. I was sick and in prison and you never came to visit me." Then they will say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you a stranger or naked without clothes? When did we

# Christ the King

see you sick or in prison? When did we see you and not come to help you?" The King will answer, "I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the poorest of my people, you also refused to help me." Then those people will go away to eternal punishment, and the good people will receive eternal life.'

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS  
CHRIST**





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10:38–42	16th Sunday C	10:1–10	4th Sunday of Lent A
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18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 55:1–3	Ps 144	Rm 8:35, 37–39	Mt 14:13–21
19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	1 K 19:9, 11–13	Ps 84	Rm 9:1–5	Mt 14:22–33
20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 56:1, 6–7	Ps 66	Rm 11:13–15, 29–32	Mt 15:21–28
21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Is 22:19–23	Ps 137	Rm 11:33–36	Mt 16:13–20
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Jr 20:7–9	Ps 62	Rm 12:1–2	Mt 16:21–27
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Ezk 33:7–9	Ps 94	Rm 13:8–10	Mt 18:15–20
24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Si 27:30 – 28:7	Ps 102	Rm 14:7–9	Mt 18:21–35

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	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 55:6–9	Ps 144	Ph 1:20–24, 27	Mt 20:1–16
26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Ezk 18:25–28	Ps 24	Ph 2:1–11	Mt 21:28–32
27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 5:1–7	Ps 79	Ph 4:6–9	Mt 21:33–43
28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 25:6–10	Ps 22	Ph 4:12–14, 19–20	Mt 22:1–14
29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Is 45:1, 4–6	Ps 95	1 Th 1:1–5	Mt 22:15–21
30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Ex 22:20–26	Ps 17	1 Th 1:5–10	Mt 22:34–40
31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Ml 1:14 – 2:2, 8–10	Ps 130	1 Th 2:7–9, 13	Mt 23:1–12
32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Ws 6:12–16	Ps 62	1 Th 4:13–18	Mt 25:1–13
33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Pr 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31	Ps 127	1 Th 5:1–6	Mt 25:14–30
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