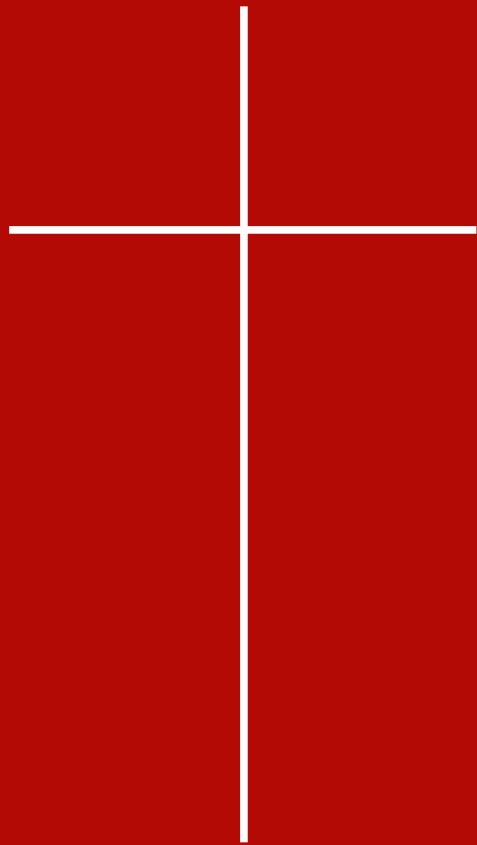


‘Signs of God’



LECTIONARY

Year C

'Signs of God' Lectionary Feasts & Solemnities

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

'Signs of God' Lectionary

For use with the Signing Deaf community
Lectionary 3rd edition
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Edited and Typeset by Peter McDonough

Advent 2021

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Catholic Deaf Association

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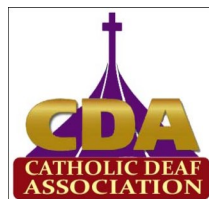
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Introduction

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 JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 33:14–16

God said, 'Soon I will keep my promise that I made to the people of Israel and Judah:

"At that time I will choose a King to rule with justice. He will be a descendant of David. He will do the things that are good and right for the country. The people of Judah will be saved and Israel will live with confidence. The city will be called 'The Lord is good.'"

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 24

RESPONSE: **MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.**

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

Lord, help me know your ways.
Teach me to walk in your truth.
Because you God are my saviour.
The Lord is always good.

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

The Lord God guides the humble in the right path.

To the lost people, He shows the way.

He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love.

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Let the Lord be generous, increasing your love and help you love each other and all people the same way as we love you. In this way the Lord will make your hearts holy so that in front of God our Father you will stand without blame until the Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

My brothers and sisters, you learnt from us how to live the way God wants; this is the life you should have. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we encourage you to live the way God wants, and never stop trying. You have not

1st Sunday of Advent

forgotten the teachings we gave you from the Lord Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, let us see your mercy and give us your help.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Strange things will happen to the sun, the moon and the stars. The world will be in agony (pain), people will be afraid of the noise of the sea and the waves. People will worry about what will happen to the earth. The powers of heaven will shake. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things happen, stand with confidence because your salvation is near.

Watch yourselves, or your hearts will become hard and cold because of selfishness, drunkenness, and the cares, problems, temptations of the world; or that day will happen suddenly like a trap. It will happen to people everywhere on earth. Stay awake, praying all the time for strength. Pray you will be able to stand with confidence in front of the Son of Man.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

2nd Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF BARUCH

Baruch 5:1–9

You Jerusalem, take off sorrow and distress, the same as a dress, and put on the beauty of God's glory for ever. Wrap around you the cloak of God's integrity (goodness). Put on your head the diadem (headband/crown) of God's glory. God will show your splendour (glory) to everyone under heaven. God will give you a name for ever: 'Peace through integrity (goodness) and honour through faithfulness.'

You Jerusalem, arise. Stand on the heights and look to the east. You will see your children from the west and from the east brought together because of the Holy One's command; and you will rejoice because God remembered them.

With their enemies, they left you and they walked away. Now God brings them back to you, they are carried in glory like royal princes. God ordered all high mountains and hills become flat; the valleys

filled up level; so that Israel can walk safely under God's glory. Because of God's command, the trees will give shade to Israel; and God will lead Israel with joy by the light of his glory with mercy and goodness.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 125

RESPONSE: **WE ARE GLAD
BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION
IS MARVELLOUS.**

**WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S
CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.**

The Lord helped us and freed us, it seemed like a dream become true!

We rejoiced, we sang and we were happy.

Other people said, 'The Lord did good things for them!

Truly the Lord is wonderful.'

2nd Sunday of Advent

WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.

We were prisoners, but the Lord freed us.

The sad people with tears, are now happy.

People go out sowing seeds with tears.

But now, they gather the crops and they come back with joy.

WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.

pray that your knowledge will improve and that you will understand better so that you will see the truth and know what is best. This truth and knowledge will help you to become pure and without fault. It will help you to prepare for Christ's coming. Your lives will be filled with the true goodness that Jesus will give - for the glory and praise of God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

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

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Every time I remember you I thank God for you. Every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because you helped me with the Gospel from the first day until now. I am sure God began this good work through you, and He will continue until the work is finished on the Day Christ Jesus comes. God knows I miss you all. I love you the same way that Jesus Christ loves you. I pray you will love each other more and more. I

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 LUKE

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod was ruler of

2nd Sunday of Advent

Galilee, his brother Philip ruler of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias ruler of the land of Abilene, during the time of Annas and Caiaphas the High priests; the Word of God came to John the Baptist in the wilderness. John went through the land near the River Jordan. He told the people to change their lives, to be baptised and receive the forgiveness of God.

In the book of Isaiah, it says:

‘Someone will shout in the desert: "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, every mountain and hill will be made flat. Rough roads will be made smooth. Then all people will see God’s salvation!"’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

3rd Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah 3:14–18

Daughter of Zion, shout with joy. Israel, shout aloud! Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and celebrate with all your heart. The Lord took away your punishment. Your enemies, God sent away. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; fear evil no more. When that day happens, someone will say:

‘Zion, fear no more, do not let your hands be tired or drop.’

The Lord God is with you, He the warrior (soldier) has won. He will rejoice with you; through his love he will make you new again. God will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a festival (celebration) day.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Isaiah 12:2–6

RESPONSE: **SING WITH JOY
BECAUSE THE LORD IS GREAT.**

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

Truly, God is my salvation.
I trust God, I will not be afraid.
The Lord gives me strength.
God saves me.

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

Give thanks to the Lord, praise his name!

Tell all people about his wonderful works.

Tell all people about his name.

Sing and praise the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 4:4–7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I say it again: I want your happiness. Show your patience to everyone. The Lord is very near. Don't worry about anything but if there is something that you need, pray to God and ask for what you need. Always ask God with prayers and thanksgiving. God's peace is so

3rd Sunday of Advent

great, we can never really understand. God's peace will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord gave me his spirit. He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 3:10-18

People asked John, 'What must we do?' John answered, 'If you have two shirts, you must share with someone that has none. If you have food, you must also share it with someone that has no food.' Some tax collectors came to be baptized and they asked him, 'What must we do?' John said to them, 'Be honest, and don't charge people to pay too

much tax.' Some soldiers asked him, 'What about us? What must we do?' John said, 'Don't bully anyone. Don't be cruel. Don't force people to pay you. Be satisfied with your wages.'

People began to hope that John the Baptist might be the Christ. So John told them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming. He is more powerful than I am. I am not good enough to take off his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate the grain of wheat into his barn, and the straw that is no good he will throw into a fire that will never go out.' In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and he told them to change their lives.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

4th Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF MICAH

Micah 5:1–4

The Lord says:

‘You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, you the least important of the families of Judah, from you will be born someone to rule Israel. His family lived a long way in the past. The Lord will leave his people until the day a woman gives birth to a son. Then his people (family) will come back and join the people of Israel. He will stand and feed his sheep with the power of the Lord and with the glory of God’s name. His people will live safely because all over the earth people will acknowledge his greatness. He will bring peace.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 79

RESPONSE: **LORD, LET YOUR
FACE SHINE ON US AND WE
WILL BE SAVED.**

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

Lord, shepherd of Israel, look at us.

Show your strength, come and help us.

Turn to us, O God!

Look down from heaven and protect your vine.

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

You have chosen your son.

Give him strength.

We will never leave you again.

Give us life and we will praise your name.

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said:

‘You do not want sacrifices or blood from animals, but you prepared a body for me. You do not want animals burnt on the

4th Sunday of Advent

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.'"

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I am the servant of the Lord. I will obey you.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 1:39-44

Mary went quickly to a town in the hill country of Judah to visit Elizabeth. Zechariah lived there. Mary went into the house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt (kicked) in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said aloud, 'You, Mary, are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the baby in your womb. Why did you come to honour me, you, the mother of my Lord? When I heard your greeting, the baby inside me leapt (kicked) with joy. Yes, you are blessed because you believed the Lord's promise would become true.'

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 FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28

Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Hannah named him Samuel and explained, ‘I asked the Lord for a son.’

A year later, the husband Elkanah and his family went to Shiloh to offer the annual (yearly) sacrifice and to keep the promise he made to the Lord, but Hannah did not go. She told Elkanah, ‘When the boy is old enough to eat proper food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the Lord. He will stay there all his life.’

When the boy was old enough to eat proper food, Hannah took him to the Lord’s house at Shiloh. Hannah also took a three year old bull, 20lbs of flour, and a bag of wine. Hannah and the boy child went to the temple. They killed the bull, then Hannah went to Eli and said to him, ‘Excuse me. Do you remember me? I am the same woman you saw standing here praying to the Lord. I prayed

asking for a child and the Lord answered my prayer. Now I give my child to the Lord. He will serve the Lord all his life.’

Then Hannah left the boy there and worshipped the Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 83

RESPONSE: THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE ARE HAPPY.

THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE ARE HAPPY.

Lord, your house is beautiful,
My soul wants to be in your temple.

My heart and my soul sing with joy to the living God.

THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE ARE HAPPY.

The people living in your temple are happy.

They always praise you.

Lord, hear my prayer,

Turn and look at me; protect me always.

THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE ARE HAPPY.

Holy Family

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ↕ OF ST JOHN

John 3:1–2, 21–24

God the Father loves us so much, he lovingly created us his children. We really are God's children!

The world refused to believe God, and so the world does not understand that we are God's children.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, but we do not know yet what we shall become in the future. We know that when we see God we shall become like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Dear friends, if our conscience cannot condemn us, then we have nothing to fear when we approach God. Anything we ask God we will receive, because we obey his commandments and live the way God wants. God's commandments are: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we love each other the way God wants us to love. Any persons obeying

God's commandments, live in God, and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us because of the Spirit that he gave us.

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 LUKE

Luke 2:41–52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival (Feast). When Jesus was twelve (12) years old, they went to the Festival (Feast) as usual. After the Festival finished they went home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem and his parents did not know. They thought Jesus was with friends on the journey. At the end of the

Holy Family

day's journey, his parents looked for Jesus among their relatives and friends. Then they realised Jesus was not there, so Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

Three days later, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Everyone listening to Jesus was amazed at his intelligence. When they saw him, his parents were so relieved and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this? Your father and I have been very worried looking for you.' Jesus replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's work?' But they did not understand.

Then Jesus went back with them to Nazareth and he obeyed his parents. Jesus' mother, Mary, remembered many things in her heart. Jesus grew up and he became wise. God was pleased with Jesus, and people liked him.

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

Psalm 71

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

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

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11

God says, ‘Comfort my people, comfort them! Speak to the people of Jerusalem. Tell them they suffered long enough. I gave them double punishment for all the bad things they did, and now their sins are forgiven.’

In the desert, a voice shouts: ‘Prepare a way for the Lord. Make the road straight for God. Fill every valley. Make all mountains and hills flat. The rough land will be made smooth. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed (shown), and all people will see God’s glory. The Lord himself promised this.’

Happy messenger to Zion, you bring good news. Go to a high mountain and proclaim the good news! Do not be afraid, tell all the people in the towns of Judah: ‘Here is your God.’

See, the Lord God comes with power. God uses his power to rule all people. The Lord wins all his prizes; our prize (reward) is to

be with him. The Lord will lead his people, like a shepherd feeding his sheep, gathering lambs in his arms, and leading the mother ewes (sheep) to a place of rest.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 103

RESPONSE: **MY SOUL PRAISES THE LORD, YOU ARE WONDERFUL.**

MY SOUL PRAISES THE LORD, YOU ARE WONDERFUL.

Lord God, you are wonderful.

Full of glory and power.

Your works are wonderful.

With wisdom you created everything.

MY SOUL PRAISES THE LORD, YOU ARE WONDERFUL.

The earth is full of your riches.

You keep everything alive.

Without your spirit, they die.

You give us your spirit, you make us new again.

MY SOUL PRAISES THE LORD, YOU ARE WONDERFUL.

Baptism of the Lord

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO TITUS

Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7

God revealed (showed) his grace and his grace saved everybody. His grace taught us the right way to live and 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 evil. Jesus gave his life to purify (cleanse) our lives, so that we will belong to him, and do good in the world.

God showed the love and kindness of our Saviour to all and saved us. God saved us, not because of the good things we had done, but because of his own mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, God generously gave us the Holy Spirit, and saved us by cleansing water and new birth. Through grace we become right with God and receive eternal life.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

John said, 'Someone is coming, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

People began to think and expect that John the Baptist might be the Christ. So John told everybody, 'I baptise you using water, but one person is coming, this person is more powerful than me; I am not good enough to take off his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

After all the people had been baptised, Jesus was also baptised. While Jesus was praying, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit came

Baptism of the Lord

down on him like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, 'You are my Son, the Beloved. I bless you.'

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 DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 26:4–10

Moses said to the people, 'The priest will take the basket from you and put it on the ground in front of the altar. Then in front of the Lord, you must say these words:

"My father was a wandering (walking) Aramaean. He went to Egypt and lived there. A few people lived with him. But soon his people became many and powerful. The Egyptians treated us badly, they were cruel. They forced us to work and we had no peace. We prayed to the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our prayers; the Lord saw our suffering and saw us working as slaves. With great power the Lord worked miracles, terrifying things happened and we escaped from Egypt. The Lord brought us here to this land with plenty of milk and honey. Now I bring to the Lord the fruits from the first harvest of this land." You must put the basket of good things on the ground in front of the Lord

your God, and bow worshipping the Lord God.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 90

RESPONSE: **LORD, STAY WITH ME THROUGH MY SUFFERINGS.**

LORD, STAY WITH ME THROUGH MY SUFFERINGS.

Any person that believes in God will say to the Lord:

'You are my protection, my place of safety, I trust you God!'

LORD, STAY WITH ME THROUGH MY SUFFERINGS.

God will send his angels to protect you from all danger, to protect you from illnesses, and save you from all evil.

The angels will make sure you are safe.

LORD, STAY WITH ME THROUGH MY SUFFERINGS.

You will walk on poisonous snakes but you will be safe.

Lions will not hurt you because God loves you.

1st Sunday of Lent

God will rescue (save) and protect you.

If you believe in God, God will be with you and He will save you.

**LORD, STAY WITH ME
THROUGH MY SUFFERINGS.**

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

Romans 10:8–13

Scripture (Bible) says: 'God's word is very near to you, on your lips and in your heart, and we proclaim this faith. If you say that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, then you will be saved. If, in your heart, you believe in God, then He will be with you. If you show that you believe in Him, then God will save you.' Scripture (Bible) says: 'Any person believing in Jesus will not be disappointed.' This means 'any person' because there is no difference between Jews and Greeks; they all belong to the same Lord. The people that pray

and ask God for help, the Lord will save them.

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 LUKE

Luke 4:1–13

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. During that time Jesus ate nothing, and at the end he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture (Bible) says: People cannot live on bread only.'

Then the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said to him, 'I will give

1st Sunday of Lent

you all this power and wealth. All these are mine and I will give them to you, if you worship me.’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Scripture (Bible) says: You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’

Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and made him stand on top of the Temple. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, jump, because Scripture (Bible) says the angels will protect you. The angels will catch you so you will not be hurt.’ But Jesus answered, ‘Scripture (Bible) says that you must not test the Lord your God.’

The devil gave up tempting Jesus, he left Jesus and went away.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

2nd Sunday of Lent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF GENESIS

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18

The Lord took Abram outside and said, ‘Look at the sky and try to count the stars. You will have many descendants (future people), as many as the stars.’ Abram trusted the Lord and the Lord was pleased with him.

Then the Lord said to him, ‘I brought you out of Ur, I did this because I want to give you this land.’ But Abram asked, ‘Lord, how will I know that the land will be mine?’ The Lord answered, ‘Bring me a cow, a goat and a ram, each three years old. Also, bring a dove and a young pigeon.’ Abram brought the animals to God. Abram cut them in half. He put the halves opposite each other. But he did not cut the birds. Vultures (birds) flew down to eat the dead animals, but Abram chased them away.

Then the sun went down and Abram slept heavily. Suddenly in the dark, between the halved

animals, smoke and fire appeared. That day the Lord made a Covenant (promise) with Abram. God said:

‘I promise to give this land to your descendants (future people).’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 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 all
danger.

I will never be afraid.

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND
MY HELP.**

Lord, I ask for your help,
have mercy, answer me.

Do not reject me,
you have helped me.

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND
MY HELP.**

2nd Sunday of Lent

I am sure I will see the Lord's goodness

among all the living.

Wait for the Lord, be strong.

Be confident and wait for the Lord.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY HELP.

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

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

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Brothers and sisters, stay together and follow my rule of life. Those people that follow the right way, carefully watch and copy them, the same example you have from us. I have told you many times, and today with tears, I tell you again, there are many people that live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their lives will be lost. They worship food as gods. They do terrible things, they ought to be ashamed of themselves. The things they think are important are earthly things.

* For us, our home is in heaven. We are waiting for the Saviour. He, the Lord Jesus Christ, will come from heaven. He will rule the world. Using the same power He will change our weak bodies and make them copies of his own glorious body.

So, my brothers, sisters and dear friends, do not give up but persevere, faithfully follow the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown. *

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ACCLAMATION

From the cloud, God's voice said: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him.'

2nd Sunday of Lent

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 9:28–36

Jesus took Peter, James and John and went up the mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed, and his clothes became shiny white. Suddenly, two men were there talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory. They talked with Jesus about the way that he (Jesus) would soon follow God's plan by dying in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very tired and sleepy, but when they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with Jesus, they woke up. At the same time as Moses and Elijah disappeared, Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here. We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' Peter did not really know what he was talking about. While Peter spoke, a cloud came and covered the three disciples. They were afraid. From the cloud a voice said: 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him!' Then the voice stopped,

Jesus was alone. The disciples said nothing and told no one about the things they saw.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

3rd Sunday of Lent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EXODUS

Exodus 3:1–8, 13–15

Moses was looking after the sheep and goats for his father-in-law, Jethro. He led the sheep into the desert and arrived at Horeb, the mountain of God. On the mountain, the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses within a fire in the middle of the bush. Moses looked, the bush was on fire, but it was not burnt. Moses said, 'This is strange. Why is the bush not burnt? I must go nearer to look.' The Lord saw Moses go near the bush. From the middle of the bush the Lord called (shouted): 'Moses, Moses!' He (Moses) answered, 'I am here.' God said, 'Do not come near. Take off your shoes, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord God said, 'I have seen my people cruelly imprisoned in Egypt. I have heard

their prayers, they want to be free. Yes, I know they suffer and I will save my people from the Egyptians. I will take them out of Egypt, and bring them to a land rich and wide, with plenty of milk and honey.'

Moses said to God, 'You want me to go and say to the people of Israel, "God sent me". But they will ask me, "What is God's name?" So what will I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'Tell them, "I AM THAT I AM." You must tell them, "I AM sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'You must tell the people of Israel: "The Lord, God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name forever, the name all people will use to call me.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

3rd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 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 guilt.
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 10:1–6, 10–12

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you about our fathers long ago. They were guided by a cloud, the cloud led them through the sea. In the cloud and in the sea, they were all baptised

into Moses. All ate the same spiritual food, and all had the same spiritual drink, because the water was from the same spiritual rock; that rock was Christ. But God was not pleased with many of them because they did not follow God, so they died in the desert. These things happened as a warning for us, not to desire evil things as they did. You must never complain; some of them complained and they were killed by the Angel of Death.

All this happened as a warning, and it was written as an example to teach us because we are living at the end of time. Any person thinking they are safe, must be careful they do not fall (fail).

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

3rd Sunday of Lent

ACCLAMATION

The Lord says, 'Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is very near.'

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the people from Galilee. Pilate had them killed and mixed their blood with other sacrifices. Jesus answered, 'Do you think that they died because they were more sinful than all the other people from Galilee? No! But I tell you, if you do not repent and stop sinning, you will all die the same as them. What about those eighteen (18) people in Siloam that were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you think they were more sinful than all the people living in Jerusalem? No! But I tell you, that if you do not repent and stop sinning, you will all die the same as them.'

Jesus told them this parable, 'A man planted a fig tree in his

vineyard. He went looking for figs on the tree but he found none. So he said to the gardener, "Look, for three years I have been coming to look for figs on this tree, but there are none. Cut it down. This tree is wasting good soil." But the gardener answered, "Leave it alone. Wait one more year. I will dig round the tree and put in some manure. Maybe next year the tree will grow figs. If no figs grow, then you can cut it down."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

4th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 33

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF JOSHUA

Joshua 5:9–12

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘You were in Egypt, I helped you escape. Today I take away the shame of Egypt.’

The Israelites camped at Gilgal on the flat land of Jericho, they began the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth (14th) day of the month. The next day, the day of the Passover, was the first time they ate food grown in Canaan. They roasted (cooked) the corn and ate unleavened bread (flat bread made without yeast). From that day the manna stopped falling from heaven. The people of Israel now ate food grown in the land of Canaan.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **TASTE! SEE! THE LORD IS GOOD TO US!**

TASTE! SEE! THE LORD IS GOOD TO US!

I will always bless the Lord.

I will never stop praising him.

I looked for the Lord.

He answered, and saved me from all my terrors (fears).

TASTE! SEE! THE LORD IS GOOD TO US!

Look to the Lord and trust Him.

The Lord will listen and he will save you.

The Lord is near to all that ask for his help.

The Lord will always be happy to help us.

TASTE! SEE! THE LORD IS GOOD TO US!

A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SECOND SCROLL ⇅ TO THE CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 5:17–21

If any person is with Christ, that person becomes a new creation. The old creation has gone. This is

4th Sunday of Lent

God's work. Through Christ, God forgave us and made peace with us, and God gave us the work of spreading Christ's forgiveness. God made peace with the world and He will forgive all our sins. He told us to give the message of peace and forgiveness to everybody. We all have a mission: we let God work through us. We let God communicate through us to other people, so that their sins will be forgiven. Christ was without sin, but God made his Son carry our sins, so that through Jesus we will be saved and then we will experience the goodness of God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ACCLAMATION

I will leave this place and go to my father. I will say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Many tax-collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and the scribes (writers) complained and said, 'This man, Jesus, welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So Jesus told this parable: 'A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Father, give me my share of your money now." So the father divided his wealth and his money between the two sons. A few days later, the younger son had everything ready and he left. He travelled to another country. Like a fool, he spent all his money on drink, parties, prostitutes and wild living.

Later, after he had spent all his money, a very bad famine (no food) happened in that country so there was nothing to eat. He was hungry and had no money, so he went to work on a farm feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig's food, but no one gave him anything.

4th Sunday of Lent

Then he realised that he had been very foolish. He thought, "My father pays his servants and the servants have plenty of food to eat. But I am here dying of hunger! I will go back and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son. Give me a job the same as one of your servants.'" So he left the place and went back to his father.

While the son was still far away, his father saw him. He felt pity for him. The father ran to the boy and hugged and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe. Give him a ring and sandals. Then go, find the best fat calf and kill it. We will have a feast, a celebration (party), because my son was dead and now he is alive again! He was lost and now he is found!" So they began to celebrate.

The older son was working in the fields. When he came back to the

house, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants, "What's happening?" The servant said, "Your brother has come and your father has killed the fat calf, because he is back home safe." He was angry and refused to go in, so his father came out and asked him to come in. But the older son said to his father. "I worked hard like a slave for many years for you. I never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a kid (baby goat) for me to celebrate with my friends. But your other son wasted all your money on women, and now he has come home, and you killed the best calf for him."

The father answered, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But it is right that we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, and now he is found."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

5th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 125

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 43:16–21

Long ago, the Lord made a way through the sea. Through the rough waters he made a path for his people. Horses and chariots, and a powerful army, God threw the sea onto them. They drowned, destroyed, gone like a candle blown out.

The Lord says, ‘Do not think about the past. Don’t think about the things that happened a long time ago. Why? Because I will do new things. It is happening already, you can see it now! I am making a road in the desert. The wild animals and birds will honour me. Why? Because I put water in the desert, rivers in dry land, so that my people can drink. The people that I chose and look after, they will praise me.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

**RESPONSE: WE ARE GLAD
BECAUSE GOD’S CREATION IS
MARVELLOUS.**

**WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD’S
CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.**

The Lord helped us and freed us, it seemed like a dream become true!

We rejoiced, we sang and we were happy.

Other people said, ‘The Lord did good things for them! Truly the Lord is wonderful.’

**WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD’S
CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.**

We were prisoners, but the Lord freed us.

The sad people with tears, are now happy.

People go out sowing seeds with tears.

But now, they gather the crops and they come back with joy.

**WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD’S
CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.**

5th Sunday of Lent

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

Philippians 3:8–14

I believe knowing Christ Jesus my Lord is very important, more important than anything. In my old life, before I accepted Christ, I wasted things. As I look back, I realised everything I had was rubbish. Now I only want to be with Jesus Christ and live in him. Now, I do not try to be perfect by myself. I only want perfection through faith in Christ. Faith brings perfection from God. All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection. I want to share in his sufferings and death, so that I myself will be raised from death to life. I have not yet become perfect. I have not yet won the race. I am still running, trying to win the prize. I can tell you that I know I have not yet won the race. I try to forget my past and do my best to reach the end and win the prize. And what is the prize? Life with God the Father in heaven given through Jesus Christ.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

ACCLAMATION

Do good and not evil, so that you will live, and that the Lord God will be really with you.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 8:1–11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning Jesus went into the Temple. All the people came to listen to Jesus. He sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes (writers) and Pharisees brought a woman. They caught the woman in the act (sinning) of adultery. They forced the woman to stand in front of everyone. They said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the act (sinning) of adultery. In our law, Moses said we should condemn women like this to

5th Sunday of Lent

death by stoning (throwing stones) them. What do you say?' They were trying to trap Jesus saying something wrong. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. The Jewish leaders continued asking Jesus questions. So Jesus looked up and said, 'If any person here has not sinned, let that person be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this, they went away, one by one; the older people went first, in the end only Jesus was with the woman. The woman was still standing there. Jesus looked at her and said, 'Where are they? No one has condemned you?' The woman replied, 'No one.' Jesus said, 'Well then, I do not condemn you. Go and don't sin any more.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 19:28–40

Jesus went to Jerusalem. When he was near Bethphage and Bethany, not far from the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village. When you enter, you will find a young donkey tied there. No one rode the donkey before. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkey, you must tell them, "The Master needs the donkey.'" The two disciples went into the village and found the donkey as Jesus had said. When they untied the donkey, the owner came and asked, 'Why are you taking the donkey?' The disciples answered, 'The Master needs the donkey.'

The disciples brought the donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on the donkey's back and helped Jesus sit on it. Jesus rode the donkey along the road and people threw their coats on the road. They came nearer to Jerusalem, and they went down

the road near the Mount of Olives, all the disciples began to sing with joy. They praised God for all the miracles they had seen. They sang:

'Bless the King! He comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!'

Some Pharisees were in the crowd. They said to Jesus, 'Master, tell your disciples to behave and stop singing.' But Jesus answered, 'I tell you, if the disciples are quiet and say nothing, the stones will shout.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

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 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 LUKE

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

N The time was right, Jesus sat at table with his apostles and said to them,

† 'I wanted to eat this passover with you before I suffer. Because I will not eat it again until everything happens in the kingdom of God.'

N Then Jesus took a cup. He gave thanks and said,

† 'Take this cup, drink and share with everybody. Because I will not drink wine again until the kingdom of God comes.'

N Then Jesus took some bread. After he gave thanks, he broke it and gave the bread to them, saying,

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

† 'This is my body. My body will be given up for you. Do this to remember me.'

N After supper, in the same way, Jesus took the cup and said,

† 'This cup is the new Covenant (Promise) in my blood. My blood will flow for you.'

One of you here with me at table will betray me. The Son of Man will die as expected, but it will be worse for the man that betrays the Son of Man!'

N The apostles began to ask each other who would betray Jesus. They began to argue which apostle was the greatest. So Jesus said to them,

† 'In the world where people do not believe in God, kings rule over them. The kings have power over them, and the people call the kings, "Friends of the People". This must not happen with you. If you want to become the greatest, you

must become humble like the youngest. The leader must become like a servant. Which is the more important person? - the one sitting at table or the one that serves? Yes, the person sitting at table is more important, but I am here and I serve you!

You, my apostles, faithfully followed me. You stayed with me during my difficult times. My father has given me his kingdom. Now I give the kingdom to you and you will rule with authority. You will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. You will sit on thrones and judge the twelve families of Israel.

You, Simon Peter! Look at me! Satan (devil) has power to tempt you all. But I have prayed for you Simon that your faith will not fail. And when your faith is strong again, you must help the faith of your brothers.'

N Simon said to Jesus,

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

P 'Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you. I will die with you!'

N Jesus replied,

† 'I tell you Peter, before the cock crows (bird sings) today, you will say three times that you do not know me.'

N Jesus said to the apostles,

† 'Before, I sent you out with no money, no bag, no sandals, were you short of anything?'

N They answered,

P 'No.'

N Jesus said to them,

† 'But now, if you have money, take it. If you have a haversack (rucksack), use it. If you have no sword, sell your coat and buy one, because I tell you, the Scripture (Bible) says that I must be arrested like a thief. What the Scripture (Bible) says will happen. Yes, it will happen soon.'

N The apostles said,

P 'Lord, we have two swords here.'

N Jesus said,

† 'That is enough!'

N Jesus left the upper room and went to the Mount of Olives the same as before. The apostles followed him. When they arrived, Jesus said to them,

† 'Pray that you will not be tempted.'

N Jesus walked not far from the apostles and he knelt down. Jesus prayed,

† 'Father, take away this cup from me. But if you want I will accept the cup of suffering. Not what I want, but what you want.'

N Then an angel appeared, coming down from heaven to give strength to Jesus. Jesus was full of fear and anxiety (worry), he prayed harder and he sweated blood. Then he got up and went to the

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

apostles but found them sleeping because their sadness made them very tired. He said to them,

† ‘Why are you asleep? Get up and pray so that you will be strong to resist against temptation.’

N Jesus was still speaking when a group of men appeared. Judas, one of the twelve (12) apostles, was leading the men. Judas came to kiss Jesus. Jesus said,

† ‘Judas, why are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’

N The apostles saw what was happening and they said,

P ‘Lord, shall we use our swords?’

N One of the apostles used a sword and cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest. But Jesus said,

† ‘Stop! Enough!’

N Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed him. Then Jesus

spoke to the chief priests and captains of the Temple guard and the Jewish leaders. He said,

† ‘Why have you come to arrest me with swords and sticks? Am I thief? I was with you everyday in the Temple and you never arrested me. But now, your time has come, the darkness of evil rules.’

N They arrested Jesus and took him away. They brought Jesus to the house of the high priest. Peter followed. Some people started a fire in the middle of the yard and sat around the fire. Peter sat with them. A servant-girl saw Peter, she looked at him and said,

P ‘You were with Jesus.’

N But Peter denied it (said ‘no’), saying

P ‘Woman, I don’t know him.’

N Later, another person saw Peter and said,

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- P 'You are a friend of Jesus.'
- N But Peter replied,
- P 'No, I'm not.'
- N About an hour later, another man said,
- P 'I'm sure this man was with Jesus. I can tell he is from Galilee.'
- N Peter said,
- P 'My friend, I don't know what you are talking about.'
- N At the same time while Peter was still speaking, the cock crew (bird sang). The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him:
- † 'Before the cock crows (bird sings) today, you will say three times that you do not know me.'
- N Peter went outside and cried bitterly.
- The soldiers guarding Jesus mocked Jesus and beat (hit) him. They put a blindfold on
- him and questioned him, saying,
- P 'If you are a prophet, tell us who hit you?'
- N They continued to insult him. In the morning when the sun rose, the Jewish leaders had a council meeting with the chief priests and scribes (writers). Jesus was brought to the council and stood in front of them. They said to Jesus,
- P 'If you are the Christ, tell us.'
- N Jesus replied,
- † 'If I tell you, you will not believe me. And if I question you, you will not answer me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.'
- N They all said,
- P 'So you are the Son of God?'
- N Jesus answered,
- † 'You say I am.'
- N They said,

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

P 'We don't need other witnesses, because we have all heard Jesus saying that he is the Son of God.'

*

N The Jewish leaders, the chief priests and the scribes (writers) all stood up. They brought Jesus to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus and said to Pilate,

P 'We caught this man making trouble with our people, telling them not to pay tax to Caesar. And he said that he is the Christ, a king.'

N So Pilate asked Jesus,

P 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

N Jesus replied,

† 'You say I am.'

N Pilate said to the chief priests and the people,

P 'I find nothing wrong with this man.'

N But they would not give up and said again and again,

P 'He is making trouble with the people all over the land. He started in Galilee and now he is spreading trouble here!'

N When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate realised that Jesus was under Herod's authority. At that moment, Herod was in Jerusalem, so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod.

Herod was happy to see Jesus. He had heard about Jesus, and for a long time wanted to see him. He was hoping to see Jesus work some miracle. So he asked many questions but Jesus said nothing. The chief priests and the scribes (writers) were standing there. They accused Jesus of many things. Then Herod and his soldiers began to mock Jesus. They gave Jesus an expensive cloak that kings wear, and they all laughed at him. Then they

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate had always been enemies, but on that day, they became friends.

Pilate asked the gathering of chief priests, the Jewish leaders and the people,

P 'You brought this man to me. You say he is a trouble-maker amongst the people. I have judged him and I find nothing wrong. Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him, and sent him back here. You see, Jesus has done nothing wrong. I don't think he should die, so I will punish him. He will be whipped and then he will be freed.'

N But everybody shouted together,

P 'Kill him! Free Barabbas!'

N Barabbas was in prison because he made trouble in the city, and also he was a murderer.

Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he asked the people

again, but everybody shouted,

P 'Crucify Jesus! Crucify him!'

N For the third time, Pilate spoke to the people,

P 'Why? What has he done? I find nothing wrong with him, I think he should not be killed. I will punish him and then let him go free.'

N But everybody shouted loudly that Jesus should be crucified. Their shouting became louder. So Pilate gave up and decided. He freed Barabbas from prison and he gave Jesus to the people, to let them do what they wanted.

The soldiers led Jesus out to crucify him. On the way they saw Simon from Cyrene, and they forced Simon to help carry the cross behind Jesus. Many people followed Jesus. Many women followed and were very upset and cried aloud for Jesus. But Jesus

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- turned and said to the women,
- † 'Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. In the future, it will happen that people will say, "Blessed the women that cannot have babies. Blessed the women that have never breast-fed babies!" Then people will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" They will say to the hills, "Hide us!" Because today men use green wood which is not ready, so what will happen after the wood dries?'
- N Two thieves were with Jesus and they too would be killed. When they arrived at the place named 'The Skull', the soldiers crucified Jesus and also crucified the two thieves, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said,
- † 'Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing.'
- N The soldiers threw dice to share Jesus' clothes. The people stood watching Jesus. The Jewish leaders mocked Jesus and said,
- P 'Jesus saved other people. If he is God's Chosen One, the Christ, let him save himself!'
- N The soldiers also mocked Jesus, and when they came to give Jesus vinegar (sour wine) they said to him,
- P 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!'
- N On top of the cross was written: 'THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.'
- One of the thieves insulted Jesus saying,
- P 'Are you the Christ? Save yourself, and save us!'
- N But the other thief told him off and said,
- P 'Have you no respect for God? You got the same punishment as Jesus. You and I should be punished, but

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- Jesus did nothing wrong. (...turns to Jesus...) Jesus, remember me when you enter into your kingdom.'
- N Jesus replied,
- † 'Yes, truly I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise (place before heaven).'
- N Now it was about the sixth hour (noon), but the sun was dark because of an eclipse and the whole land was dark until the ninth hour (3 pm). In the Temple, the curtain was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted in a loud voice,
- † 'Father, I give you my spirit.'
- N After Jesus said this, his breathing stopped and he died.

SILENCE

Wait/kneel for one minute

N When the Roman soldier saw everything that had happened, he praised God and said,

P 'This man, Jesus, was really a great and good man.'

N All the people saw everything that had happened, and they went home beating their chests in sorrow. Near the cross, Jesus' friends stood watching. The women from Galilee - they had followed Jesus everywhere - they also saw everything.

Then a man named Joseph, a member of the Jewish council, arrived. He was a very good man. He did not agree with the other Jewish leaders that killed Jesus. Joseph came from Arimathaea, a Jewish town, and he hoped that the kingdom of God would come. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph took down Jesus' body from the cross and wrapped the body in a shroud (special long

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

white cloth). He put the body in a new tomb carved in the rock. It was Preparation Day (Friday) and Sabbath would soon start.

The women that came from Galilee with Jesus, followed Joseph, and they watched him put Jesus' body in the tomb. Then the women went away and began to prepare special oils and perfumes for Jesus' body. On the Sabbath, they rested, following the Jewish law. *

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

Psalms 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

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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.

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 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,

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"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

Psalm 15

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.

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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 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 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

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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:

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.

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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 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

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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 LUKE

Luke 24:1–12

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to the tomb. They brought the spices and special oils they had prepared. They saw the heavy stone had already been rolled (moved) from the tomb. The women went inside the tomb but could not see the body of Jesus. They stood there and did not know what to do. Suddenly, two men in shiny clothes appeared near the women. The women were terrified and looked down. The two men said to them, ‘Why are you looking for someone? This is a place for dead people. Jesus is not dead; he has risen. Remember Jesus told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man would be arrested by sinful people, and be crucified, and three days later he would rise to life.’ The women remembered the things Jesus said.

The women left the tomb, they told everything to the eleven apostles and all the other

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disciples. The women were named Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles. But the apostles did not believe them, because they thought the women's story was rubbish (foolish talk).

Peter ran to the tomb. He bent down and saw the clothes, but no body. He went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Psalm 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 5:12–16

The people believing in Christ Jesus met regularly at the Portico of Solomon. No other persons were brave enough to join them, but they were impressed with them. The numbers of men and women that believed in the Lord increased. The apostles worked many miracles. Sick people on beds and sleeping mats were brought to the street, hoping that if Peter walked near, his shadow would cure them. Crowds of people came from all the towns around Jerusalem. They brought sick people and people with evil spirits inside them. All of these people were cured.

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). Let the people that respect the Lord say:

'His love continues for ever.'

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.

We rejoice and we are glad.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.

He saved us.

The Lord will save us, and give us success.

We bless the person that comes in the Lord's name.

The Lord God is our light.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF REVELATION

Revelation 1:9–13, 17–19

My name is John. I am your brother in Christ and in the

2nd Sunday of Easter

kingdom of Jesus, I share your sufferings and all the things that you experience. Because I witnessed for Jesus and preached God's word, I lived on the island of Patmos. On the Lord's day, with the Spirit in me, I heard a voice behind me, like a trumpet, shouting: 'Write down in a book everything you see.' I turned round to see who had spoken. I looked and saw seven golden lampstands. In the middle I saw something like the Son of Man, wearing a long robe with a gold belt round his waist.

When I saw him, I fainted. His right hand touched me and he said, 'Do not be afraid; it is me. I am the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead but now you see I am alive for ever and ever. I have the keys of Death and Hades – the place of death. Write down all that you see happening, and write down the things that will happen.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. The people that can't see me but still believe in me, 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 a room, the doors closed and locked, 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. 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.'

2nd Sunday of Easter

One of the twelve (12) Apostles, Thomas, was not there. Later the disciples told him, 'We saw the Lord.' Thomas answered, 'I will not believe until I see the holes in his hands and touch them. I refuse to 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 the book. The miracles that are written 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 5:27–32, 40–41

The Apostles were brought in, and they stood in front of the Jewish Council. The High Priest told them off and said, 'We warned you not to preach in the name of Jesus, but you have spread your teaching all over Jerusalem, and you tried to blame us for Jesus' death!' Peter and the apostles replied, 'We must obey God before obeying men. You killed Jesus by nailing him to a tree, but God raised Jesus from death. God raised Jesus to be our leader and saviour so that He could help people to repent and have their sins forgiven. We are witnesses to this.' The Jewish Council warned the apostles never to preach in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go free. After the apostles left, they were glad to have suffered worthily for God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 29

RESPONSE: I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU SAVED ME.

I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU SAVED ME.

Lord, I praise you because you did not let my enemies win over me.

You gave me new life.

All you people praise the Lord.

Thank his holy name.

His anger is for short time, his goodness is for ever.

I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU SAVED ME.

The Lord listened and he came to help me.

He took away my tears and let me dance with joy.

Lord God, I will thank you for ever.

I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU SAVED ME.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF REVELATION

Revelation 5:11–14

In my vision, I, John, heard thousands of angels. The angels

3rd Sunday of Easter

stood around the throne with the animals and the elders. There were ten thousand times ten thousand (10,000 X 10,000) angels, and they sang with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb sacrificed; worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.'

Then I heard all the living things in the world - everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, all singing: 'Praise, honour, glory and power to the One sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever!'

The four animals said, 'Amen'. The elders bowed down, prostrated (face down on the floor) themselves and worshipped.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, explain the Scriptures (Bible) to us and our hearts will burn inside us.

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 21:1-19

* Jesus appeared again to the disciples near the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael from Cana, James and John, and two other disciples were all together. Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' The others said, 'We will come with you.' They went into the boat, but all night they caught nothing.

In the morning, it was getting light, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. Jesus shouted, 'Friends, have you caught anything?' They replied, 'No, nothing.' Jesus said, 'Throw the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.' They threw the net and caught so many fish, the disciples could not pull in the net. The disciple Jesus loved (John) said to Peter, 'That is Jesus the Lord!' Peter heard John and so he wrapped his cloak (because he had nothing on) and jumped into

3rd Sunday of Easter

the water. The other disciples came to the shore in the boat, pulling the net, full of fish. They were not far, only about one hundred metres from the land.

When they reached land, they saw some bread and a fire cooking some fish. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you caught.' Peter went and pulled the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty three (153) fish altogether. So many fish, but the net did not break. Jesus said to the disciples, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was brave enough to ask 'Who are you?' They knew he was Jesus the Lord. Jesus came nearer, he took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after rising from the dead. *

After the meal Jesus said to Peter, 'Simon Peter, do you love me more than the other disciples love me?' Peter answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A

second time Jesus said to him, 'Simon Peter, do you love me?' Peter replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then Jesus said to him a third time, 'Simon Peter, do you love me?' Peter was upset that Jesus asked him three times 'Do you love me?' Peter said to Jesus 'Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

'I tell you the truth: when you were young, you tied your own belt and you went where you wanted to go. But when you grow old, you will lift up your hands, and another person will tie your belt and take you where you don't want to go.'

When Jesus said this, he showed the way that Peter would die to give glory to God. Then Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

4th Sunday of Easter

A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 13:14, 43–52

Paul and Barnabas travelled from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia. They went to the synagogue on the sabbath and sat down.

When the meeting finished, many Jews and devout (good religious persons) converts joined Paul and Barnabas. Talking with them, Paul and Barnabas encouraged them to remain faithful to the grace God gave them.

A week later, on the sabbath, nearly everybody from the town came together to listen to the Word of God. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they became jealous, they used blasphemies (bad language) and disagreed with everything Paul said. With courage Paul and Barnabas spoke: 'We had to proclaim the Word of God to you first, but because you rejected God's Word, because you did not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must go to the pagans (non-

believers). The Lord told us what to do, He said:

"I made you the light for the nations (countries), so that my salvation will reach the ends of the earth."

The pagans (non-believers) heard this and they were very happy. They thanked the Lord for this message. Those that believed in God received eternal life. The Word of the Lord spread all over the country.

But the Jews persuaded some holy women from wealthy families and some important men from the city to reject Paul and Barnabas and throw them out of their place. So Paul and Barnabas wiped the dust from their feet and they went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

4th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 99

RESPONSE: **WE ARE HIS PEOPLE.
WE ARE HIS SHEEP.**

**WE ARE HIS PEOPLE. WE ARE
HIS SHEEP.**

Sing to the Lord with joy.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before the Lord, singing
with joy.
He is our Lord, our God.

**WE ARE HIS PEOPLE. WE ARE
HIS SHEEP.**

He made us, we belong to him.
We are his people, we are his
sheep.
The Lord is always good and
merciful.
He is faithful for ever and ever.

**WE ARE HIS PEOPLE. WE ARE
HIS SHEEP.**

the Lamb. They wore white robes, with palms in their hands. One of the leaders said to me, 'These people have been through the terrible persecution. They washed their robes with the blood of the Lamb and their robes are now white again. They now stand in front of God's throne and worship Him everyday. God sits on the throne and will protect them. These people will never hunger or thirst again. They will never suffer from the sun, or any strong dry wind. The Lamb (Jesus Christ) will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ OF REVELATION

Revelation 7:9, 14–17

I, John, saw a huge (very big) crowd, impossible to count. People from different countries, cultures and languages stood in front of the throne and in front of

4th Sunday of Easter

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 10:27-30

Jesus said, 'The sheep belonging to me listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life. They will never be lost. No one will steal them from me. The Father gave them to me, and the Father is greater than anyone. No one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

5th Sunday of Easter

A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 14:21–27

Paul and Barnabas went back to Antioch through Lystra and Iconium. They encouraged the disciples to remain strong in faith. They said, 'We must suffer a lot before we can go into God's kingdom.' In each Church they appointed elders (leaders). They fasted and prayed to the Lord for these elders (leaders).

Paul and Barnabas travelled through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. At Perga they preached the Word of God, then they went to Attalia. From Attalia, they sailed to Antioch - the place where they first began to work for God; they had now finished the work.

When they arrived in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas met with the church people and explained to them what happened and how God helped them in their work to open the hearts of pagans (non-believers) to believe in God.

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.**

The Lord is kind and full of
compassion.

Slow to anger, quick to love.

The Lord is good to all people.

All your peoples thank you Lord.

**I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME
FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

Your people and friends praise
you Lord.

They will tell of God's goodness
to all people.

They will tell people about your
wonderful actions and the glory
of your reign.

You reign for ever and ever.

**I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME
FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.**

5th Sunday of Easter

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ OF REVELATION

Revelation 21:1–5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared. The sea also disappeared. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven, like a beautiful bride, dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: 'You see this city. Here God lives with people. He will make his home with them; they will be his people, He will be their God. His name is: "God-with-them". He will wipe away their tears. There will be no more death, no more mourning (crying), no more sadness. The old world has gone.'

Then, from the throne, God spoke, 'Now I make new the whole (all) of creation.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus said, 'I give you a new commandment: Love each other, the same as I (Jesus) loved you.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 13:31–35

After Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now the Son of Man receives his glory, and God the Father also receives glory through him (Jesus). If God the Father receives glory through him (Jesus), then God will soon give glory to his Son. My little children, soon I will go. I give you a new commandment: love each other. Because I loved you, you must also love each other. If you love each other, everybody will know you are my disciples.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

6th Sunday of Easter

A READING FROM THE ACTS ↕ OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 15:1–2, 22–29

Some men from Judaea arrived at Antioch. They said to the brothers, 'You cannot be saved if you are not circumcised as Moses taught.' The men disagreed and after a long argument they agreed that Paul and Barnabas and others from Antioch should go to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders (leaders).

Then the apostles and elders (leaders) in Jerusalem decided to choose some representatives from the church of Jerusalem and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The whole church agreed. They chose Judas also named Barsabbas, and Silas, both important leaders. The apostles and elders (leaders) gave them a letter to take to Antioch. The letter said:

'From the apostles and elders (leaders), your brothers, to all the pagans (non-believers) in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: We

heard that some of our members told you something that upset and confused you. We did not give them permission. So now we agreed to send our chosen representatives with Paul and Barnabas, two important men that we respect a lot; they continue to give their lives working for our Lord Jesus Christ. They are Judas and Silas and they will witness to what we have written in this letter. The Holy Spirit helped us decide that you do not have to be circumcised. Follow (obey) these important rules: do not eat food used in sacrifice to false gods; do not drink blood; do not eat meat from animals that have been strangled (choked); and do not fornicate (have sex with other people). If you follow these rules, you will be alright. Farewell (goodbye).'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

6th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 66

RESPONSE: **LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD.**

LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

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

LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

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.

LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ OF REVELATION

Revelation 21:10–14, 22–23

In the spirit, the angel carried me to the top of a very high mountain. The angel showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from heaven. The city

shone (shining) with the glory of God, shining like a very special beautiful diamond. The walls around the city were very high, and had twelve (12) gates. At each gate there was an angel. Above each gate was written the names of the twelve (12) families of Israel. On the east wall there were 3 gates, on the north 3 gates, on the south 3 gates, and on the west 3 gates. The walls of the city were built on twelve (12) foundation stones; written on each stone was the name of one of the twelve (12) apostles of the Lamb (Jesus).

I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb (Jesus) were themselves the same as the Temple. The city did not need the sun or moon, because the glory of God and the Lamb (Jesus) gave light to the city.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

6th Sunday of Easter

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus said, 'If any person loves me, that person will keep my word. My Father will love that person and we will come to that person.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 14:23–29

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If any person loves me, that person will follow my word and my Father will love that person. My Father and I will come to that person and make our home with them. Those that do not love me, do not obey my words. My word is not really mine: the word comes from the Father sending me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you, but the Advocate (the Helper), the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything. The Father will send the Holy Spirit in my name. The Holy Spirit will remind you of everything I said to you. I leave you peace, I

give you my peace, I give you peace the world cannot give you. My peace is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, "I am going away, but I will return." If you loved me, you would be happy to know that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.'

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 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. Every time Jesus sat at table with the apostles, he told them to wait and not to leave Jerusalem. He reminded them of a promise God the Father had made. 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!

Ascension of the Lord

God goes up with joy.
God is king of all the earth.
God is king of all the nations
(people).
Sing praise to our king, our God.

THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!

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

Ephesians 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

Alternative reading

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23

Christ did not go into a sanctuary (holy place) made by human hands; that sanctuary (holy place) is only a copy of the real one. Christ went to heaven and he is now with God to help us. The Jewish High Priest goes into the sanctuary (holy place) once every year with the blood of an animal. Christ went to heaven not to offer

Ascension of the Lord

himself many times like the Jewish High Priest. If Christ had to offer himself many times, he would have to suffer many times since the beginning of the world. Christ came and he offered himself once only, and he took away all sin through the sacrifice of himself. Each person dies once, and after that God judges the person. In the same way, Christ offered himself once to take away the sins of many people. And Christ will come again a second time, not to take away people's sins, but to save those that are waiting for him.

My brothers and sisters, through the death of Jesus we are able to enter (go into) the sanctuary (holy place). Christ Jesus opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain – this means through his body. Now we have an important high priest that rules the house of God. So let us go in, let us be sincere (honest) and have faith, our minds free from doubts and feelings of guilt, our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep the hope that we

have and not give up, because we know and trust that God will keep his promise.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus said, 'Go, make all people disciples. I, Jesus, am with you, for ever.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 24:46–53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You know the Scriptures (Bible) say that Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. The Scriptures (Bible) also say that all people should repent and have their sins forgiven in his name. The preaching of forgiveness must be spread to all nations (countries), starting from here in Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. And now, I,

Ascension of the Lord

Jesus, will give you what God the Father promised you. Stay here in Jerusalem until you have received this power from heaven.' Then Jesus took his disciples out of Jerusalem to a place near Bethany. Jesus raised his hands and blessed his disciples. As Jesus was blessing his disciples, he was lifted up into heaven. The disciples worshipped Jesus, then they went back to Jerusalem full of joy. They went to the Temple regularly everyday and praised God.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

7th Sunday of Easter

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 7:55–60

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. He said, 'I can see heaven open, and I see the Son of Man standing at God's right hand.' When Stephen said this, all the council members shouted and put their hands over their ears. They all pushed Stephen out of the city and threw stones at him. The witnesses took off their clothes and put them on the ground next to a young man named Saul. As they were throwing stones at Stephen, he prayed: 'Lord Jesus, I give you my spirit.' He knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not punish them because of this sin,' and then Stephen died.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 96

RESPONSE: THE LORD IS KING OF ALL THE EARTH.

THE LORD IS KING OF ALL THE EARTH.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice.
He rules with justice and fairness.
The skies show his justice.
All peoples see his glory.

THE LORD IS KING OF ALL THE EARTH.

You spirits, worship him!
Lord, you are truly God!
You are God, most high over all
the earth.

Most high over all spirits.

THE LORD IS KING OF ALL THE EARTH.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF REVELATION

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me, 'Very soon, I will be with you again. I will bring rewards with me and I will give reward to each person depending on what each person has done. I am the "Alpha" and the "Omega",

7th Sunday of Easter

meaning the "First" and the "Last", the "Beginning" and the "End". Blessed are the people that have washed their robes clean. They will have the right to eat from the tree of life. They can go through the gates into the city.'

'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to tell you about this for the churches. I am from the family of David. I am the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'. Every person that listens must also say, 'Come'. Then all the people that are thirsty, let them come! Any person can have the water of life, and they can have it free.

Jesus reveals (shows) these things to you. Again he says, 'I will be with you.' Jesus will keep his promise. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord says, 'I will not leave you, 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 17:20–26

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, I pray for these people. And I also pray for all the other people that will believe in me because of the things that these people teach them. Let them all be together, united as one. Father, I pray they will be together with us, the same as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world will believe it was you that sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they will be united together the same as we are together. I will be in them and you will be in me. Let us all become united as one family, so that the world will know it was you that sent me, and that I

7th Sunday of Easter

loved them the same as you loved me. Father, I want these people you gave me to be with me where I am, so that they will always see the glory you gave me because you loved me before the beginning of the world. Father, Holy One, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these people know that you sent me. I have told them your name, and I will continue to spread your name, so that your love will be in them, and I will be in them.'

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

Pentecost Sunday

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.

O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE WORLD.

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

Romans 8:8-17

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 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.

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 people guided by the Spirit are children of God. The Spirit you received is not the spirit that makes you slaves (imprisoned) or afraid. The Spirit makes you children of God and helps you pray: 'Abba, Father!' God's Spirit joins our spirit and lets us become children of God. If we are God's children then we receive blessings from God. Together with Christ, we will receive God's blessings; if we suffer with Christ, we will also share his glory.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Pentecost Sunday

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 14:15–16, 23–26

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will follow my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another "Helper" to be with you for ever. The people that love me will obey my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. The people that do not love me do not follow my words. The word is not mine but from the one that sent me. I tell you these things because I am with you now; but soon the "Helper", the Holy Spirit, will be sent by the Father in my name. The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of everything I taught you.'

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

Thursday after Pentecost

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 6:1–4, 8

The year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He sat on his high throne, his robe (clothes) all around him in the Temple. Above him were angels, each with six wings. They were singing, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. His glory fills the world.' The sound of their voices shook the Temple, and the Temple was filled with smoke. Then I heard the Lord say, 'Who can I send? Who will go for me?' I replied, 'I am here. Let me go, send me.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Alternative reading

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 2:10–18

God created and preserved (protected) everything, it was

right God made Jesus perfect through suffering, so that he (Jesus) could bring many children to share the Father's glory. Jesus sanctified (consecrated/blessed) them and made them pure. He himself and all that became pure have the same Father (God). That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his family. He says to God, 'I will tell my people what you have done; in front of them I will praise you.' He also says, 'I will trust God' and 'I am here with the children God has given me.'

All children share the same blood and flesh. Jesus became flesh and blood, the same as us, this means he shared our human experience. Through dying on the cross, he destroyed the devil, the one with the power of death. In this way, Jesus freed us; before we were slaves because of fear of death. Jesus did not help the angels, he helped people from the families of Abraham. This is why Jesus had to be like his brothers and sisters. Jesus was born the same as other

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

Thursday after Pentecost

people so that he could become their merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and be able to forgive their sins. Now Jesus can help those people that are tempted, because he himself was tempted.

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.

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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

Thursday after Pentecost

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I will pour clean water upon you and I will give you a new heart; a new spirit I will put within you.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 17:1-2, 9, 14-26

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.

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. I gave your teaching to the people. The world hated them because they do not belong to the world, the same as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them away from the world, but I ask you to protect them from the

Devil. They do not belong to the world, the same as I do not belong to the world. Consecrate (bless) them in the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, the same as you sent me into the world. And I myself became holy so that they could be consecrated (blessed) in the truth.

Holy Father, I pray for these people. And I also pray for all the other people that will believe in me because of the things that these people teach them. Let them all be together, united as one. Father, I pray they will be together with us, the same as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world will believe it was you that sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they will be united together the same as we are together. I will be in them and you will be in me. Let us all become united as one family, so that the world will know it was you that sent me, and that I loved them the same as you loved me. Father, I want these

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest Thursday after Pentecost

people you gave me to be with me where I am, so that they will always see the glory you gave me because you loved me before the beginning of the world.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF PROVERBS

Proverbs 8:22–31

The Wisdom of God said:

‘In the beginning, the Lord God created me before anything else. From long, long ago, before the beginning of creation, God planned and created me. I was born before the deep earth, I was born before the springs of water. I came before the mountains, before the hills, before the land, the fields, and the soil. When God created the sky, the clouds, the sea, the coast and the land, I was there with him. There too, I was with God, as he made the earth foundations. I was with God, the perfect skilled creator, happy with him every day, I enjoyed being with him, playing in his presence all over his world. Rejoicing in the presence of all his people.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **LORD GOD, YOUR NAME IS GREAT.**

LORD GOD, YOUR NAME IS GREAT.

Lord, when I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars you created, you are really wonderful. You always remember your people, and you care for us.

LORD GOD, YOUR NAME IS GREAT.

You made us people almost like angels.

You gave your people glory and honour.

You gave them power over the earth that you created.

You gave them everything, sheep and cattle,

birds of the air, and fish swimming in the waters.

LORD GOD, YOUR NAME IS GREAT.

Trinity Sunday

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

Romans 5:1–5

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, God judged us to be good. We have peace with God because of our faith and through Jesus, we receive God's grace. And because of that grace, we can look forward to God's glory. We can boast (proud) about our sufferings because we know that suffering makes us more patient. Patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope. We know this hope is not false, because God gave us his love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 16:12–15

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I still have many things to tell you, but they would be too much for you now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will lead you to the full truth; Because the Spirit will not be speaking for himself, but will only say the things God wants him to say. And the Spirit will tell you about the things that will happen. The Spirit will glorify (praise) me, because everything the Spirit tells you is from me (Jesus). Everything the Father has is mine. That is why I said: "Everything the Spirit tells you will come from me."'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Corpus Christi

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF GENESIS

Genesis 14:18–20

Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought bread and wine. He himself was a priest of God. He blessed Abraham saying:

‘Abraham, God blessed you, He the Creator of heaven and earth. Praise God because He helped you win over your enemies.’

Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth (1/10) of everything he had.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 109

RESPONSE: **YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER, THE SAME AS MELCHIZEDEK.**

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER, THE SAME AS MELCHIZEDEK.

The Lord said:

‘Sit at my right. I will control your enemies.’

The Lord will give you power to rule over your enemies.

No enemy can stop you ruling your kingdom.

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER, THE SAME AS MELCHIZEDEK.

From your birth I blessed you: now as king you will rule with power.

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER, THE SAME AS MELCHIZEDEK.

The Lord made a promise.

He will not change his mind.

‘You are a priest for ever, like Melchizedek of long ago.’

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER, THE SAME AS MELCHIZEDEK.

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 someone betrayed Jesus, 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.’ After supper, in the same way, Jesus took the cup and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant (promise) in my

Corpus Christi

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 our Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord says, 'I am the living bread from heaven. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 9:11-17

Jesus welcomed the crowd and he talked to them about the kingdom of God. Jesus healed some people.

It was late afternoon; the twelve (12) apostles came and said to Jesus, 'Send the people away, so they can go to the villages and

farms near here to find lodging and food, because this is a lonely place.' Jesus replied, 'You yourselves give them something to eat.' The apostles said, 'We only have five loaves and two fish. Do you expect us to go and buy food for all these people?' There were about five thousand people. Jesus said to his disciples, 'Tell the people to sit down in groups of about fifty each.' When the people sat down, Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, thanked God for the bread and fish. He broke them and gave to the disciples and they gave them to the people. Everybody ate and were full. There was plenty left over and when the scraps were collected, they filled twelve baskets.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sacred Heart

Psalm 22

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 34:11–16

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 fog and the dark I will bring back safely. I will bring them from foreign countries, back to their own land. I will look after them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and where people live. I will give them good pasture (fields). They will rest and eat on good land, on the mountains of Israel. I myself will feed the 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.’

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.

Sacred Heart

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 ROMANS

Romans 5:5–11

God loves us through the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. At the right time, Christ 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 (ready) to die for that good person. But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This proves God really loves us. Through Christ's death we are now reconciled to God. Christ will not fail to save us from God's anger. Before we were enemies, but through the death of his Son, God reconciled us and made us

friends again. Now that we are friends, we can be sure we are saved. So 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, 'I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 15:3–7

Jesus told this parable (story) to the scribes (writers) and the Pharisees, 'Suppose a shepherd has a hundred (100) sheep, and he loses one sheep. What will he do? He will leave the ninety-nine (99) sheep, and go to look for the lost sheep until he finds it. After he finds that lost sheep, he will be so happy, he will carry the sheep

Sacred Heart

on his shoulders and take it home. Then he will tell his friends and neighbours, "Look, I found my lost sheep! Rejoice with me." In the same way, I (Jesus) tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents, than over ninety-nine (99) good people that do not need to repent.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

2nd Sunday of the Year

Psalm 95

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: PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD.

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD.

Sing to the Lord!

Tell all people about his help.

Tell all people about his glory.

Tell all people about his wonders.

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD.

Families and peoples, give glory
and power to the Lord.

Praise his name.

Worship the Lord in his temple.

Tell all people, 'God is King.'

He will judge all people fairly.

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 12:4–11

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

2nd Sunday of the Year

people work different ways, but the same God works in all of them. The Holy Spirit shows God's power through each person for a good reason. The Holy Spirit may give one person the gift of wisdom; another person may have the gift of preaching; another may have the gift of faith; another may have the gift of healing; another may have the power of miracles; another may have the gift of prophecy; another may have the gift of being able to recognise the difference between spirits that come from God or from the devil; another may have the gift of speaking and understanding languages. All these different gifts come from the same Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people as God wishes.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, your words are spirit. Your words have life. You have the message of eternal life.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 2:1–11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited. At the wedding, the wine was finished (empty), Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why come to me? My time is not yet ready.' Jesus' mother said to the servants, 'Do what Jesus tells you to do.' The Jews have strict rules about washing, and there were six stone jars near the wall used for washing. Each jar could hold 20 or 30 gallons of water. Jesus said to the servants, 'Pour water and fill these jars.' The servants poured water into the jars. Then Jesus said, 'Now take some water and give it to the steward (chief

2nd Sunday of the Year

servant).’ The servants took some water and gave it to the steward (chief servant). The steward (chief servant) tasted it, but the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine was from, but the servants knew. The steward (chief servant) said to the bridegroom, ‘People usually give the best wine first, and later when people are drunk, the servants offer the cheaper wine. But you have given the best wine at the end of your wedding feast!’

This was the first sign (miracle) Jesus did – this happened at Cana in Galilee. Jesus let people see his glory and his disciples believed in him.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

3rd Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10

On the first day of the seventh (7th) month, the people – men, women and children old enough to understand – met together for a meeting. Ezra the priest brought the Scroll of the Law. In the square near the Water Gate, in front of all these people, Ezra read from the Scroll of the Law; he read from early morning until twelve (12) noon. All the people listened carefully to Ezra reading from the Scroll of the Law.

Ezra the scribe (writer) stood on a wooden platform built specially so people could see him. Ezra opened the book and all the people stood up. Ezra said, ‘Praise the Lord, the Great God!’ All the people raised their hands and said, ‘Amen! Amen!’. Then they bowed down, faces to the ground, and they worshipped the Lord. Ezra read from the Law of God; he translated and explained it so that the people understood what the Law meant.

Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe (writer), and the Levites (those teaching the Law) said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord God. Do not be sad, do not cry.’ Because all the people were crying as they listened to the Law.

Then Ezra said, ‘Go home and eat. Celebrate, enjoy good food and sweet wine. Share with those that have nothing. Today is special to the Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord will make you strong.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 18

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOUR WORDS ARE SPIRIT. YOUR WORDS HAVE LIFE.**

LORD, YOUR WORDS ARE SPIRIT. YOUR WORDS HAVE LIFE.

The law of the Lord is perfect.

The law gives new strength.

God’s law gives wisdom to the people.

God’s law makes people happy.

3rd Sunday of the Year

LORD, YOUR WORDS ARE SPIRIT. YOUR WORDS HAVE LIFE.

God's laws are good.

God's laws show people the right way to live.

All his laws are true and just and fair.

Lord, let my thoughts and my words (signs) make you happy.

LORD, YOUR WORDS ARE SPIRIT. YOUR WORDS HAVE LIFE.

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

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

1 Corinthians 12:12–30

* A person has one body and the body has many parts (arms, legs, head, etc). The same with Christ. All of us are different, Jews, Gentiles (non Jews), slaves or free people, but all of us received the one Spirit. The body is not made up of one part only, it has many parts. *

The foot is one part of the body. The foot is not the same as the hand, but the foot belongs to the body. The ear is not the same as the eye, but the ear belongs to the body. If all your body was just one eye, how could you hear? If all your body was just one ear, how could you smell?

No, the body has many different parts and God put them all together. If each part of the body were the same, how could it be a body? There are many different parts but they all form and become one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

All parts of the body are important. If one part of the body is weak, we look after it carefully and with great respect. God has put the body together in a wonderful way, so we need to respect it. There is no division in the body. All the different parts are important. So if one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If

3rd Sunday of the Year

one part is praised, all the other parts are praised too.

* In the same way, all of you together are Christ's body, but each one of you is a different part of Christ's body.*

In the Church, there are apostles, prophets, teachers; people with gifts of miracles and healing; good leaders that help, and people good with many languages. Not all are apostles. Not all are prophets. Not all are teachers. They are all different. They all have different gifts, but they are all together in Christ's one body.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord sent me to bring the Good News to the poor, and to tell all people that they are free.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 1:1–4; 4:14–21

Many people tried their best to write about the things that happened recently. They wrote exactly what the witnesses saw, and they themselves followed God's Word. I, myself, thought carefully about the story from the beginning, and I have decided to write everything for you, Theophilus. I do this so that you will know the full truth, everything about the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, with the power of the Holy Spirit in him, came back to Galilee. News about him spread all over the land. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

3rd Sunday of the Year

Then Jesus went to Nazara, the place where he grew up. On the Sabbath, he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read. Some one gave him the scroll written by the prophet, Isaiah. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the part he wanted to read:

‘The spirit of the Lord is in me because he anointed me. The Lord chose me to go and tell the Good News to poor people; to those imprisoned (trapped) that they are free; to help the blind see; to tell those suffering from oppression that they are now free; and to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.’

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue watched him. Jesus said 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**

4th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19

The Lord said to me, 'Before I created you in your mother's womb, I already knew you. Before you were born, I blessed you. I chose you to be a prophet to all nations (countries).

You Jeremiah, get ready; go and tell everybody everything I tell you. Do not be afraid of the people, or I will make it worse and make you more afraid when you are with them. You Jeremiah, listen to me, everyone in this land - the kings of Judah, the officials, the priests, and the people - all of them will be against you. But today I will give you strength; you will be like a strong city, with pillar of iron and a bronze wall. They will fight against you but will not defeat you because I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord, said this.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 70

**RESPONSE: I WILL TELL ALL
PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR HELP.**

**I WILL TELL ALL PEOPLE ABOUT
YOUR HELP.**

Lord, I come to you for
protection.

Never let me be ashamed.

In your justice rescue me, free me.

You are my rock, my place of
safety.

**I WILL TELL ALL PEOPLE ABOUT
YOUR HELP.**

Lord, you give me hope. I trust
you.

From my birth, from my youth,
you always helped me.

You taught me, you protected
me.

I will always thank you.

**I WILL TELL ALL PEOPLE ABOUT
YOUR HELP.**

4th Sunday of the Year

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

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

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

Always try to have the great gifts of the Holy Spirit. I will show you the best way of all.

I may be able to speak well like people or angels, but if I speak without love, I am nothing. If I have the gift of prophecy, and I understand all the things about God and know everything, but if I have no love, then I am nothing. If I have enough strong faith and can move mountains, but if I have no love, then I am nothing. If I give away everything I have and if I let people kill me and burn my body, but if I have no love, then my sacrifice will be no good.

* Love is always patient and kind. Love is never jealous or proud. Love is never selfish or rude and is not quick to anger. Love does not want to know the wrong things other people do, but is always happy to know the truth.

Love is always ready to forgive/give excuse, to trust, to hope, and always patient with whatever happens.

Love will never finish. There are people with gifts of prophecy, but there will be a time when the gifts of prophecy will fail/end. The gifts of languages will not continue for ever. The same with knowledge, it will fail. Our knowledge and our prophesying are not perfect. But when perfection comes, all the things that are not perfect will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child. But now I am an adult I do not behave like a child. I leave behind childish things. Now we see something blurred, like in a mirror. One day in the future, we will see things clearly face to face. One day I will have perfect knowledge and know myself in the same way that God knows me. Only three things are important for ever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love. *

4th Sunday of the Year

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!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak to the people in the synagogue, 'This reading is really happening today at the same time as you listen.' All the people agreed and said good things about Jesus. They were impressed with Jesus and said, 'He preached very well.'

Some people said, 'Is it true that he is Joseph's son?' Jesus said to them, 'I'm sure you will quote (tell) me: "Doctor, heal yourself". You also want to tell me, "We heard all the things you did in Capernaum. Why not do the same here in your home place?"' Then Jesus said, 'I tell you the

truth: A prophet is never welcomed, never accepted in his own country.

Long time ago, during the time of Elijah, there were many widows in Israel. There was no rain for three and a half (3½) years and the land became dry so there was a famine (no food). God did not send Elijah to help any of these widows in Israel, but He sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath, a town in Sidon. Also, during the time of Elisha, there were many lepers living in Israel. No one was cured, only the leper named Naaman and he lived in Syria.'

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were furious. They got up and pushed Jesus out of the town. They went to the top of the hill. They wanted to throw Jesus over the cliff, but Jesus walked through the middle of the crowd and escaped.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

5th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 6:1–8

The year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He sat on his high throne, his robe (clothes) all around him in the Temple. Above him were angels, each with six wings. They were singing, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. His glory fills the world.' The sound of their voices shook the Temple, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'There is no hope for me! I am lost, because each word from my mouth is sinful. And I live with sinful people. But my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty!' Then one of the angels flew to me, bringing a hot burning coal from the altar. He touched my lips with the burning coal and said: 'See! Now this coal has touched your lips, your sins are taken away. You are now cleansed.' Then I heard the Lord say, 'Who can I send? Who will go for me?' I replied, 'I am here. Let me go, send me.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 137

**RESPONSE: I WILL BOW DOWN
AND PRAISE YOU, LORD.**

**I WILL BOW DOWN AND
PRAISE YOU, LORD.**

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.

**I WILL BOW DOWN AND
PRAISE YOU, LORD.**

All the kings on earth will thank and praise you

because they will hear your wonderful words;

they will sing: 'The Lord is good!' Lord, your love is eternal.

**I WILL BOW DOWN AND
PRAISE YOU, LORD.**

5th Sunday of the Year

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

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

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the Good News I preached to you. You accepted the gospel and your faith is based on the gospel. You will be saved by the gospel but you must continue to believe in it; if you don't believe then you will not be saved, you will be lost.

* I taught you what I learnt and believed myself. As the Scriptures (Bible) say: Christ died for our sins; he was buried and on the third day Christ rose to life. He appeared first to Peter and then to the Apostles. Next he appeared to more than five hundred disciples at the same time, most of them are still alive today but some have died. Then he appeared to James and afterwards to all the apostles; and last of all, Christ appeared to me too, it was like I was born and no one expected it. *

All the other apostles are more important than me. In the beginning I persecuted the Church of God, that is why I am not good enough to be named an apostle. But through God's grace I became an apostle, and the grace God gave me was powerful. I worked harder than any of the others because of God's grace within me.

* What is important is that I preach the same as the apostles preach, and you all believed this.
*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Jesus says, 'You are my friends, because I told you everything I learnt from my Father.'

ALLELUIA!

5th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 5:1–11

One day Jesus was standing near the lake of Gennesaret. There was a crowd of people and many were trying to push through because they wanted to hear Jesus preaching the Word of God. Jesus saw two boats near the shore (beach). The fishermen had got out of the boats and they were washing their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push the boat a little from the shore (beach). Then Jesus sat in the boat and preached to the crowd. After Jesus finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Row the boat out to deeper water and throw the nets to catch some fish.' Simon said, 'Master, we worked hard all night and we caught nothing. But if you say so, I will throw the nets into the water.' And after they threw the nets into the water, so many fish were caught that the nets began to tear (break). They waved to their companions in the other boat to come and help.

They came, and both boats were so full of fish that both boats nearly sank.

Simon Peter saw what had happened, he knelt in front of Jesus and said, 'Leave me, Lord, because I am a sinful man.' Simon and the others with him, James and John, were amazed that they had caught so many fish. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid, from now on you will catch people.' They brought their boats onto the shore and they left everything and followed Jesus.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

6th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 17:5–8

The Lord says: 'If people only trust other people, and if their hearts are not focussed on the Lord, I will condemn them. If they only trust their own strength and do not need my help, I will condemn them. They will be like dry bush growing in the desert. There is nothing good there. The bush grows in hot, dry, salty land. No people live there.

But if people trust the Lord, I, the Lord God, will bless them. They will be like a tree near water. The tree's roots grow and spread near the water, so when the sun is hot, the tree will be alright, its leaves always green. If there is no rain for a long time, the tree will not be worried and it will always grow fruit.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 1

RESPONSE: **TRUST THE LORD
AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED.**

**TRUST THE LORD AND YOU
WILL BE BLESSED.**

Blessed is the person that does not follow evil ways.

God will be bless this person.

A good person loves God's law.

A good person will follow God's law always.

**TRUST THE LORD AND YOU
WILL BE BLESSED.**

A good person is like a tree near flowing water.

The tree's leaves stay green and the tree gives fruit regularly.

But evil people are not like that; they are blown away by the wind, they are gone.

The Lord knows the way of good people.

Evil people will be destroyed.

**TRUST THE LORD AND YOU
WILL BE BLESSED.**

6th Sunday of the Year

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

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16–20

Our belief is that Christ was raised from the dead; so why do some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If the dead are not raised, then it means Christ has not been raised. If that is true and God never raised Christ, you are still lost in your sins. Also, it would mean that the people that are already dead, are also lost. If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and nothing more, then people will pity us more than other people in the world.

But the truth is: God did raise Christ from the dead. Christ is the first to rise; and so all those that died, they too will be raised to life.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Blessed be God, the Father, Lord of heaven and earth. He shows the kingdom of God to his children.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 6:17, 20–26

Jesus came down the mountain with the twelve apostles. At the bottom of the mountain Jesus stopped. He saw his disciples and a large crowd of people there from Judaea, Jerusalem, Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear Jesus preach and they wanted him to cure their illnesses.

Jesus looked at his disciples and said: 'If you are poor now; you are blessed because the kingdom of God belongs to you. If you are hungry now; you are blessed because you will be satisfied. If you cry now; you are blessed because you will laugh.

If people hate you, throw you out, abuse you, give you a bad name

6th Sunday of the Year

and say that you are a thief, you are blessed because you follow the Son of Man. When that happens, rejoice because you will have a great reward in heaven. The same happened to the prophets.

But terrible for you rich people, because you have an easy life now. Terrible for you people well fed now, because you will be hungry. Terrible for you that laugh now, because you will be sad and cry.

And for all you people praised by the world, beware! The same thing happened long ago the way your ancestors (people long ago) treated false prophets.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

7th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF SAMUEL

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Saul picked three thousand of the best soldiers in Israel, and they went to the wilderness of Ziph to look for David. One night, David and Abishai went into Saul's camp. Saul was asleep, his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and some soldiers slept near Saul. Abishai said to David, 'Today God has given you Saul, your enemy. Let me use his spear and kill him, I will only have to use the spear once, not twice.' David replied, 'Do not kill him because God anointed Saul, and if you kill him you will be guilty.' David took the spear; he also took the water jug near Saul's head, then they both left. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up, because the Lord had made all the soldiers sleep heavily.

David went to the other side of the valley and stood on top of the mountain. Then David shouted, 'I have King Saul's spear here! Let one of your soldiers come and get it. The Lord gives reward to

those that do the right thing. Today the Lord gave me the opportunity, I could have killed Saul, but I did not kill him because I know God anointed him.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 102

RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

THE 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.

THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

The Lord heals us.
He saves our life from death.
He is slow to anger and quick to forgive.
He loves us, he will take away our sins.

THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

7th Sunday of the Year

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

1 Corinthians 15:45–49

The Scripture (Bible) says that the first man, Adam, became a living soul. But the second Adam, Christ, became a spirit that gives life. It is the human body and soul that is first, and then the same with the spirit. The first Adam was made from the earth. The second Adam, Christ, came from heaven. We live on earth as the first Adam, but because the second Adam, Christ, came from heaven, so we are in heaven. We are the same as the first Adam, made from the earth, but we will also become like Christ in heaven.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

O Lord God, open our hearts so that we will receive the words of your Son, Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 6:27–38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say to you people that are listening: Love your enemies. If people hate you, do good to them. If people condemn you, bless them. If people treat you badly, pray for them. If a person slaps you on one cheek, turn and let that person slap you on the other cheek. If someone takes your coat, let that person take your shirt as well. If any one steals something from you, do not ask for it back. Do to other people the things you would like them do to you. If you love only the people that love you, why do you think you are good? Sinful people also love other people. If you do good only to other people that do good to you, why do you expect special praise for yourself? Sinful people do the same. If you lend something to other people and you expect to receive something from them, why do you expect special praise or thanks for yourself? Sinful people

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also lend and they receive something back from other sinful people. So I (Jesus) tell you, love your enemies, do good to them, lend without expecting anything for yourself. If you do this, you will receive a great reward and you will be children of the Most High God. Yes, He is good to wicked people and He is kind to those that never give thanks.

Be merciful, the same as your Father is merciful. Do not judge other people and you will not be judged. Do not condemn other people and you will not be condemned. Forgive other people and you will be forgiven. Give to other people and you will receive gifts. You will receive a lot more gifts, more than you expect. Because if you give to other people, God will generously give to you.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

8th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ECCLESIASTICUS

Ecclesiasticus 27:4–7

When a sieve is shaken the rubbish is left, the good is separated from the bad; the same with people, we can see evil (bad things) in their talk.

After the potters finish their work, they put their pots in the kiln and the fire tests their work; the same with people, the test is in their conversation (talk).

We can tell if the orchard (trees) is good by looking at the quality of the fruit; the same with people, their words can show their feelings.

Do not praise people before they speak, because the test is in what they say.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 91

RESPONSE: **WE THANK YOU LORD.**

WE THANK YOU LORD.

It is good to thank you, Lord.

It is good to praise your name.

It is good to tell of your love

every morning,

and to sing about your

faithfulness every evening.

WE THANK YOU LORD.

Good people are like palm trees growing strong.

Growing in the house of the Lord.

Giving fruit even when they are old.

They will say that the Lord is good.

WE THANK YOU LORD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 15:54–58

When these earthly bodies change into heavenly bodies, the new bodies will never die. When this happens, what the Scripture (Bible) says will become true: 'Death will be destroyed, victory will overcome death. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your power?' The power of death is from sin. Sin receives power from the Law. We thank

8th Sunday of the Year

God because He gave us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

My brothers and sisters, never give up. Stand firm (strong). Keep working for the Lord. You know God always remembers the things you do for the Lord. Your work for the Lord is never wasted.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

O Lord God, open our hearts so that we can accept the words of your Son.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 6:39–45

Jesus told the people a parable, 'Can one blind person guide another blind person? No, both will fall into a hole. The disciple is not more important than the teacher. But after the disciple is fully trained, the disciple will be like the teacher. Why do you look

at the small piece of wood in your brother's eye, but never see the big piece of wood in your own eye? Why do you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out that small piece of wood from your eye," when at the same time you can't see the big piece of wood in your own eye? You hypocrite (two-face)! First, take out the big piece of wood from your eye, and then you will be able to see better to take out the small piece of wood from your brother's eye.

A healthy tree does not give bad fruit. And a rotten (bad) tree does not give good fruit. You can tell if a tree is good or bad by its fruit. You cannot pick figs from thorns; you cannot pick grapes from brambles! A good person brings good things from the heart. A bad person brings bad things from their heart. Because the things a person says come from the heart.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

9th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇄ OF KINGS

1 Kings 8:41–43

Solomon stood in front of the altar of God. He raised high his hands, looked up to heaven and said:

“When foreigners, not belonging to your people Israel, hear about the wonderful things you did for us, they will come from a far country and pray in this Temple. If they come and pray here, you God will hear their prayers from your home in heaven, and you will do what they ask you. Then all people in the world will know your name. The same as your people here in Israel, the foreigners will respect you and know that your name is honoured in this Temple that I built.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 116

RESPONSE: **GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.**

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

All you peoples, praise the Lord!
Let us praise and honour him.

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

His love for us is strong.
He is always faithful.

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO GALATIANS

Galatians 1:1–2, 6–10

This message is from me, Paul, to the churches of Galatia; this is also from all the brothers here with me. I am an apostle, not appointed by other people, but chosen to be an apostle by Jesus Christ and God the Father, the same God that raised Jesus from death.

9th Sunday of the Year

I am surprised to hear how quickly you stopped following God and now you follow a different gospel. There is only one true Good News (gospel). The trouble-makers try to make you confused, they want to change the Good News (gospel) of Jesus Christ. Now I warn you that if anyone preaches a different gospel, and it does not matter who preaches, even if I or an angel from heaven preach a different gospel, that person should be condemned. I am only telling you what I told you before: you already follow the true gospel of Jesus Christ, but if anyone preaches a different gospel, that person should be condemned. Do you think I'm trying to be popular or want your approval? No, I only want God's approval. If I wanted your approval I would not be a true servant of 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 LUKE

Luke 7:1–10

After Jesus had finished talking to the people, he went to Capernaum. There was a Roman officer, he had a servant and he liked his servant very much, but the servant was ill and dying. When the Roman officer heard about Jesus, he told some Jewish leaders to go to Jesus and ask him to come and heal his servant. The Jewish leaders went and they asked Jesus to come. They said, "The Roman officer needs your help. You should help him because he is a good man, he is friendly with our Jewish people and he built the synagogue for us." So Jesus went with them.

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When Jesus was near the house, the Roman officer sent friends to tell him: "Lord, do not come! I am not worthy to have you in my house. I am not good enough to come to you myself. Just say the word and let my servant be healed. Because, I myself, am a man under the authority of other men, and I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier: 'Go,' and he goes. I tell another soldier: 'Come,' and he comes. I tell my servant: 'Do this,' and my servant obeys me." When Jesus heard this, he was very surprised. Jesus turned to the people following him and said, "I tell you, I have never seen faith like this in Israel before!" When the friends went back to the Roman officer's house, they found the servant in perfect health.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

10th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF KINGS

1 Kings 17:17–24

The son of a widow became ill. He became worse and in the end he died. The widow said to Elijah, 'Man of God, why did you do this to me? Did you come here to punish me because of my sins and to kill my son?' Elijah said, 'Give me your son.' Elijah carried the boy upstairs. He put the boy's body on his bed. Then he prayed aloud, 'Lord my God, why did you upset the widow? She is very kind looking after me, and now you killed her son.' Elijah stretched himself over the boy's body three times, and he prayed, 'Lord my God, let the soul come back into the boy!' The Lord heard the prayer of Elijah, and gave life back to the boy. The boy started to breathe again. Elijah brought the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother. Elijah said to her, 'Look, your son is alive.' The woman said, 'Now I know you are a man of God, and that everything you say is truly from the Lord!'

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 29

**RESPONSE: I PRAISE YOU, LORD,
BECAUSE YOU SAVED ME.**

**I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE
YOU SAVED ME.**

Lord, I praise you because you did not let my enemies win over me.

You gave me new life.

All you people praise the Lord.

Thank his holy name.

His anger is for a short time, his goodness is for ever.

**I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE
YOU SAVED ME.**

The Lord listened and he came to help me.

He took away my tears and let me dance with joy.

Lord God, I will thank you for ever.

**I PRAISE YOU, LORD, BECAUSE
YOU SAVED ME.**

10th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 1:11–19

I want you to tell you that the gospel I preached was not given to me from another human person. I did not receive the Good News (gospel) from them; no one taught me. I received the Good News (gospel) through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You know about my life, I used to be a strict faithful Jew. I cruelly persecuted the Church of God, I tried to destroy it. I was a leader and the best in my age group. I was full of enthusiasm following the traditions of my people.

But God chose me before my birth, when I was still in my mother's womb. Through his grace God showed his Son to me, so that I would preach the Good News (gospel) of Jesus Christ to all people, especially to those that do not believe in God. After God called me, I did not go to any person for advice; I did not go to Jerusalem to see the Apostles, they were already apostles before me. Instead, straight away I went

to Arabia, and later I went back to Damascus. Three years later I went to Jerusalem to visit Peter, I stayed with him for fifteen days, and I did not see any of the other apostles. I only saw James, the brother of the Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Let the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ open our minds so that we can understand the hope He gives us.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 7:11–17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, with his disciples. A large crowd followed him. When Jesus arrived at the gate of the town, he saw a funeral procession coming out. The dead man was the only son of a woman and she was a widow.

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Many people from the town were with the woman. Jesus saw the woman, he felt sorry for her and said, 'Do not cry.' Then Jesus walked to the open coffin and touched it. The men carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everybody was amazed and they praised God saying, 'A wonderful prophet has appeared among us. God has come to visit us!' The news about Jesus spread everywhere in Judaea and all over the country.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

11th Sunday of the Year

Psalm 31

A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL ⇄ OF SAMUEL

2 Samuel 12:7–10, 13

Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord God of Israel says this, “I anointed you king over Israel. I saved you from Saul. I gave you his house and his wives. I made you king over Israel and Judah. If this were not enough, I would have given you more. Why have you ignored and not respected the Lord? Why did you send Uriah to war so the enemy’s army could kill him, and so that you could take his wife? Why did you kill Uriah so that his wife became your wife? You have not obeyed me and because you took Uriah’s wife, your descendants (future children) will have terrible deaths.”’

David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord forgives you. You will not die.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU PROTECT ME, YOU GIVE ME JOY.**

LORD, YOU PROTECT ME, YOU GIVE ME JOY.

If a person receives forgiveness, that person will be blessed. God does not blame that person; if that person is not sly, that person will be blessed because God forgives them.

LORD, YOU PROTECT ME, YOU GIVE ME JOY.

Now, I have acknowledged (recognised) my sins.

I said: ‘I will confess my sins to the Lord.’

And the Lord forgave my sins.

I will rejoice in the Lord because he saved me.

LORD, YOU PROTECT ME, YOU GIVE ME JOY.

A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SCROLL ⇄ TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 2:16, 19–21

We know that a person is right with God, not by following the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

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We believe in Jesus Christ, the same as you; we know that faith in Jesus Christ makes us right with God, not just by following the Law. No one can be right with God just by following the Law. Through the Law, I am dead. so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ on the cross. Now it is not I living but Christ; Christ lives in me. The life I have now in this body, I live by faith in the Son of God. Jesus loved me and gave up his life for me. I must accept God's gift, I cannot refuse God's gift: if the Law can help make us right with God, it would mean Christ died for nothing.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord says, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father but only through me.'

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 7:36 – 8:3

* A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. In that town there was woman with a bad name. She heard Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought a jar full of perfumed oil. She came in and knelt behind Jesus. She cried and her tears dropped on Jesus' feet. The woman wiped his feet with her hair. She kissed his feet and anointed them with the perfumed oil.

The Pharisee that invited Jesus saw this. He thought to himself, 'If this man (Jesus) were a prophet, he would know that this woman touching him was sinful and that she has a bad name.' Jesus looked at him and said, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.' Simon the Pharisee replied, 'Master, tell me.' Jesus said, 'A banker lent money to two men - 500 to one man and 50 to another man. Both men could not

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pay him back, so the banker kindly forgave both. Which of the two men will love him more?' Simon the Pharisee said, 'The person that was forgiven more.' Jesus said, 'Yes, you are right.'

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'Simon, you see this woman? I came into your house, you gave me no water to wash my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them dry with her hair. You gave me no welcome kiss, but she has been kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfumed oil. I tell you, because of this, her many sins are forgiven. Her great love proves that she is forgiven. But the one that has few sins forgiven shows little love.' Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your sins are forgiven.' The others sitting at the table said to themselves, 'Who is this man, that he can forgive sins?' Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.'

*

After this, Jesus walked through towns and villages, preaching and telling people the Good News of the kingdom of God. The twelve apostles went with Jesus. Some women that were healed of illnesses also went with Jesus. The women were: Mary Magdalene - she was healed of seven (7) evil spirits, Joanna, Susanna and many other women - they used their money to help Jesus and his disciples.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

12th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ZECHARIAH

Zechariah 12:10–11; 13:1

I the Lord speak to you: 'I will give my spirit of kindness and prayer to the House of David and to all people in Jerusalem. They will look at the person they pierced to death. They will mourn (grieve/cry) for him like those mourning (grieve/crying) because of the death of an only (one) son. They will weep (cry) like those that have lost their first-born child. At that time, there will be terrible mourning in Judah, like the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the land of Megiddo.' When that day happens, a new spring of water will open for David's family and for the people living in Jerusalem; and the spring will wash away their sins and make the people pure.

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.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO GALATIANS

Galatians 3:26–29

All of you are children of God
through your faith in Jesus Christ.
All of you are baptised, and Christ
is now in each of you. There is no

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difference between Jew and Greek, no difference between slaves and free people, no difference between men and women. All of you are together with Jesus Christ. Because you belong to Christ, you are the descendants (children) of Abraham.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord says, 'I am the light of the world. Any person that follows me will have the light of life.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 9:18–24

One day Jesus was praying alone with his disciples, he asked them this question, 'Who do people say I am?' The disciples answered, 'Some say you are John the

Baptist; some say you are Elijah; others say you are one of the prophets of long ago come back to life.' Jesus said, 'But you, who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Christ of God.' Jesus told them not to tell anyone about him (Jesus).

Jesus also said to them, 'The Son of Man will suffer terribly. He will be rejected by the Jewish leaders, the chief priests and the scribes (writers). They will condemn him to death, but three days later he will be raised to life.'

Jesus continued speaking and said to all of them, 'If any person wants to come and follow me, they must forget themselves, take up their cross everyday and follow me. Because any person that wants to save their life will lose it; but any one that loses their life because of me, will save their life.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

13th Sunday of the Year

Psalm 15

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL ⇌ OF KINGS

1 Kings 19:16, 19–21

The Lord said to Elijah, ‘Go, you will anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat, from Abel Meholah. He will be the next prophet after you.’

Elijah went and he found Elisha, son of Shaphat. Elisha was at work in a field, ploughing with twelve oxen; he himself was with the last ox. Elijah took off his cloak and threw it on Elisha. Elisha left the oxen, ran to Elijah and said, ‘Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you.’ Elijah said, ‘Go, go back. I’m not stopping you!’ Then Elisha went, killed two oxen and cooked the meat. He used the plough for cooking the meat. He gave the meat to his workers, and they ate the meat. Then Elisha got up, followed Elijah and became his servant.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD.**

LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD.

You protect me Lord and I trust you.

All the good things I have come from you.

I will bless the Lord because he guides me.

At night he protects my heart.

LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD.

My heart rejoices, my soul is glad.

You will not let my soul go to Hades (place of death).

Lord, you show me your way of life.

I will always be happy with you.

LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL’S ⇌ TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 5:1, 13–18

When Christ freed us, he wanted us to be free always. Stand firm (strong), and don’t make yourselves slaves again.

13th Sunday of the Year

My brothers and sisters, the Lord gave you freedom, but be careful, because freedom can easily make you selfish again. Serve each other doing works of love. Remember God's law: 'Love your neighbour the same as you love yourself.' If you shout at each other and hurt each other, be careful or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me tell you: if you let yourself be guided by the Spirit, you will be in no danger of becoming selfish. The human body wants different things from what the Spirit wants for each person. The two - body and Spirit - are so different, they are against each other. You cannot follow both the human body and the Spirit at the same time. That is why you always find it difficult to do good works. But if you allow yourself to be guided by the Spirit, then no law can hurt you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, speak to us, we are listening to you. You have the message of eternal life.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 9:51-62

It was almost the right time for Jesus to go back to heaven; Jesus walked on the road to Jerusalem. He asked his disciples to go themselves to a village in Samaria to prepare for him. But the people in the village did not want to welcome Jesus because they knew he was going to Jerusalem. The disciples, James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But Jesus told them off and they went to another village.

They travelled along the road, and met a man. He said to Jesus, 'Wherever you go, I will follow you.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air

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have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to sleep.'

Jesus said to another person, 'Follow me.' But this person said, 'First, let me go and bury my father.' Jesus answered, 'Leave the dead, let the dead bury their dead. Your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another person said, 'I will follow you, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'If any person starts to work in a field pushing a plough but looks back, that person is not good enough for the kingdom of God.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 66:10–14

You Jerusalem, rejoice! All you people that love the city, be happy! Rejoice, rejoice for Jerusalem. Before you were sad for Jerusalem, now you can rejoice! You will be satisfied, sucking milk from the mother's breast. The Lord says: I will give you peace, flowing like a river. Other countries will admire (respect, praise) your glory and peace. You will be like little children, looked after by their nurse, and held in her arms. Like a mother comforting her child, I will look after you. When you see this, you will rejoice. Your bones will grow like the grass, I will make you strong and healthy. People will see and know that I help those that obey me.

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 PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 6:14–18

I, Paul, am proud of one thing only - the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his cross, the world is not interested in me and I am not interested in the world. It

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does not matter if a person is circumcised or not circumcised. What is important is that the person is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all that follow this command of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody. The wounds on my body (hands, feet and side) are the same as the wounds of Jesus. My brothers and sisters, I pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be with your spirit. Amen.

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!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

* The Lord chose seventy-two (72) disciples and sent them away. They went two by two. Jesus sent them into every town and place he himself would visit later.

Jesus said to them, 'There is a big harvest, but few workers. Pray to the Lord that he will send more workers for the harvest. Go now! But remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take money, no haversack, no sandals. Do not stop to talk with people on the road.

Before you go into a house, first say "Peace be with this house". If a person of peace lives there, your peace will stay with that person. If not, your blessing of peace will come back to you. Stay in the same house, eating and drinking everything that the people give you, because a worker should receive wages. Do not move from house to house.

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If you go into a town and they make you welcome, eat what they give you. And if any sick people are in that town, heal them and tell them, "The kingdom of God is near you". *

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD
PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST

‘But if you go into a town and people do not welcome you, go out into the streets and say, "We wipe off the dust from our feet. But remember, the kingdom of God is very near". I, Jesus, tell you, that on Judgement Day God will show more mercy to the people from Sodom than to the people of that town!’

The seventy two disciples came back rejoicing. They said, ‘Lord, even the devils obey us when we use your name.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I watched Satan (Devil) fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to crush under your feet, snakes, scorpions and all enemies. Nothing will hurt you. Do not rejoice that the devils obeyed you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.’

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Psalm 68

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 30:10–14

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, follow his commandments written in the Book of the Law. You must change your lives and follow the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

The Law I give you today is not too difficult nor impossible for you. The Law is not in the sky nor in heaven. You do not have to ask, "Who will bring down the Law so we can receive and follow it?" The Law is not on the other side of the sea, so you don't have to ask, "Who will cross the sea and bring it to us so we can receive and follow it?" No! The Word is very near to you; the Word is in your mouth and in your heart for you to follow and obey.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **SEARCH (LOOK) FOR THE LORD AND YOUR HEARTS WILL LIVE AGAIN.**

SEARCH (LOOK) FOR THE LORD AND YOUR HEARTS WILL LIVE AGAIN.

Lord, I pray to you.

With your great love, God, answer my prayer and help me!

You never fail to help me because your love is merciful and kind.

I am poor and in pain, God, help me and lift me up.

SEARCH (LOOK) FOR THE LORD AND YOUR HEARTS WILL LIVE AGAIN.

When the poor see the Lord helping them, they will be glad.

The Lord remembers those in prison.

God will help the people of Israel.

The children of God will receive help from God and live.

SEARCH (LOOK) FOR THE LORD AND YOUR HEARTS WILL LIVE AGAIN.

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

Colossians 1:15–20

No one can see God. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God.

Christ is the first born of all creation. Through him God created everything in heaven and on earth; things we see and things we cannot see, Kings, Rulers, Lords and spiritual powers - all things were created through Christ and for Christ. Christ lived before anything was created, and all things continue to live because of him. Christ is the head of the body; the body is the Church.

Christ is the Beginning, the first born raised from the dead, so he is above all things.

God wanted perfection in Christ and through his death on the cross, God reconciled everything in heaven and everything on earth; God reconciled all things to himself, giving peace through the death of Jesus on the cross.

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 LUKE

Luke 10:25–37

A lawyer came and tried to trap Jesus. He said to Jesus, 'Master, what must I do to receive eternal life?' Jesus asked him, 'What is written in the Law? What does the Law tell you?' The man replied, 'The Law says: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. You must also love your neighbour the same as you love yourself.' Jesus said, 'You are right. If you do this, you will receive eternal life.'

The man wanted to prove he was right, so he said to Jesus, 'But who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied telling a story, 'A man was travelling on the road from

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Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers came and attacked him. They took his money and all his things. They beat the man, and left him half dead. Now a Jewish priest came and saw the man lying on the road, but he did not stop to help him, he passed the man and walked away. Then a Levite came and saw him, but he did not stop to help the man, he also passed him and walked away. But then a Samaritan came, he saw the man lying on the road, and felt sorry for him. He knelt down and poured oil and wine onto the man's wounds and he bandaged him. Then he lifted the man onto his donkey and took him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, the Samaritan gave two denarii (silver coins) to the manager at the inn and told him to look after the man. He said, "If you have any extra expense, I will pay you after I return." Now, Jesus asked the lawyer, 'Which of these three men was a neighbour to the wounded man?' The lawyer said, 'The man (Samaritan) that helped and looked after him.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF GENESIS

Genesis 18:1–10

The Lord appeared to Abraham at Mamre. Abraham sat outside his tent because it was a very hot day. He looked up and saw three men standing there. Abraham saw them, ran to meet them and bowed in front of them, and said to them, 'My Lord, don't go. Please stop here and rest. I will serve you water. You can wash your feet and rest under the tree. I will give you some bread before you continue your journey.' They said, 'Thank you, we accept.'

Abraham hurried into the tent and told Sarah, 'Quick, bake some loaves.' Then he ran to the cattle and picked the best young calf. He told the servant to kill the calf and prepare it. Then Abraham brought the meat, some cream and milk. He gave the food to the three men. They ate under the tree and Abraham waited near the tree.

The three men asked, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' Abraham replied, 'She is in the tent.' One of

the men said, 'I will come and visit you again next year, and when I come your wife will have a son.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 14

RESPONSE: LORD, WHO CAN GO INTO YOUR TENT?

LORD, WHO CAN GO INTO YOUR TENT?

Lord, who can live on your holy mountain?

A person with no sin.

A person that does things fairly,
And tells the truth from his heart.

LORD, WHO CAN GO INTO YOUR TENT?

Lord, who can live on your holy mountain?

A person that does not hurt
brother or sister.

A person that lends things
without charging interest.

A person that does not fiddle
with money.

LORD, WHO CAN GO INTO YOUR TENT?

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Lord, who can live on your holy mountain?

A person that always honours and respects the Lord.

A person that is faithful forever.

That person can live on your holy mountain forever.

LORD, WHO CAN GO INTO YOUR TENT?

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

Colossians 1:24–28

It makes me happy to suffer for you. Through the suffering in my own body I try to help Christ, and I accept suffering for Christ's body, the Church. God made me a servant of the Church; He gave me special responsibility to explain and teach his message to you all. This message was hidden from people for many years long ago, and now God has shown the message to you his saints. God planned to show the glory of his mystery to all people. What is this mystery, what is this truth? The mystery and the truth is Christ

living in you; Christ is your hope. We preach Christ to all people. With wisdom we try to warn and teach people to live like Christ and to live in God's presence.

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 LUKE

Luke 10:38–42

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary sat down near the Lord's feet and listened to Jesus talking. Martha was upset because of all the work she had to do, so she said to Jesus, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do all the work by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord

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answered, 'Martha, Martha, you worry and are upset about so many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the best part. No one can take it away from her.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

17th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF GENESIS

Genesis 18:20–32

The Lord said to Abraham, ‘I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are wicked, they do terrible things. I must go down and find out if it’s true.’

The men left and went to Sodom, but Abraham stayed with the Lord. Abraham went near to the Lord and said, ‘You will destroy evil people, but what about the good people? Will you really destroy the good people at the same time? Perhaps there are fifty (50) good people in the city, will you still destroy everybody in the city? Please do not kill good people. That would not be right. Do not think of killing good people! You, Lord, you are the Judge; You must be fair and just.’ The Lord said, ‘If I find fifty (50) good people in Sodom, I will not destroy the city.’

Abraham spoke again, ‘Please forgive me for speaking boldly (bravely) to you, for I am only a man of dust and ashes. But

suppose there are only forty-five (45) good people in Sodom, will you destroy the city?’ The Lord said, ‘No, if I find forty-five (45) good people there, I will not destroy the city.’ Again, Abraham said to him, ‘Perhaps there are only forty (40) good people?’ The Lord said, ‘If I find forty (40) good people, I will save the city.’

Abraham said, ‘Please don’t be angry with me, Lord, but I must speak again. What if there are only thirty (30) good people?’ The Lord said, ‘I will not destroy the city if I find thirty (30) good people.’ Abraham said, ‘Lord, I am really bold (brave) to speak to you like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty (20) good people?’ The Lord said, ‘I will not destroy the city if I find twenty (20) good people.’ Abraham said, ‘Do not be angry with me if I speak once more. Suppose you find only ten (10) good people in the city?’ The Lord said, ‘I will not destroy the city if I find ten (10) good people.’

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THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 137

RESPONSE: **LORD, WHEN I PRAYED TO YOU, YOU ANSWERED MY PRAYER.**

LORD, WHEN I PRAYED TO YOU, YOU ANSWERED MY PRAYER.

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, WHEN I PRAYED TO YOU, YOU ANSWERED MY PRAYER.

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, WHEN I PRAYED TO YOU, YOU ANSWERED MY PRAYER.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO COLOSSIANS

Colossians 2:12–14

When you were baptised, your old life finished, buried in Christ. Because of your faith in God, in baptism you were raised to new life with Christ through the same power that God used to raise Christ from death to life. Before, you were spiritually dead, because of your sins and because you were not circumcised. But God gave you life with Christ; God forgave all our sins.

We owe a debt because we broke God's laws, but God took away our sins through Jesus' death on the cross.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

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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 LUKE

Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a quiet place. After he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, the same as John taught his disciples.' Jesus said to them, 'When you pray, pray using these words:

"Father, we pray your holy name will be honoured. Your Kingdom come. Give us our bread everyday. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those that hurt us. And protect us from temptation."

Jesus also said to them, 'Suppose you have a friend and you go to him in the middle of the night to tell him, "My friend has come to my house and I have no food to

give him. Please lend me three loaves." The man inside the house will say, "Go away! Don't bother me! The door is locked and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up and give you the bread.'" Jesus said, 'I tell you, maybe the man will not get up to give you anything, but if you continue knocking on the door and never stop asking, the man in the house will get up and give you anything you want.

So, I tell you: Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. Because if a person asks, he will always receive. If a person searches, he will always find. If a person knocks, the door will always be opened. If you are a father, what would you do if your son asked you for bread? Would you give him a stone? No! Or, if he asked you for a fish, would you give him a snake? No! Or, if he asked you for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? No! If you are a bad person but you know how to give good things to your children,

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surely the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those that ask him!

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23

The Teacher says: ‘Vanity! Pride! Everything is a waste of time in this life! Why work hard? What do you get from all this hard work? Nothing!’

‘You have skill, wisdom and experience and you work hard, but when you finish, what will happen? Another person will enjoy everything you worked hard for, but they did not work for it. You worry about life and you work hard during the day but what do you get? Everyday you work hard, you have responsibilities and frustrations, then at night your mind cannot rest. All this is a waste of time!’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 89

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.**

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

Lord, to You, one thousand years are the same as one day.

Like yesterday, come and gone.

We are like grass that grows quickly in the morning.

But when it is evening, the grass becomes dry and it dies.

Give us wisdom so that we will realise our life is short like the grass.

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

Lord, forgive us, show pity to us. In the morning, fill us with your love.

We will rejoice everyday of our lives.

Let your blessings be always with us.

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

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

Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Because you received life again through Jesus Christ, you must think about the things of heaven, where Jesus Christ sits at the right

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side 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!

That is why anything that you have belonging to this earthly life, you must throw out - things like greed, sexual sins, bad feelings, wanting to do evil, and telling lies. Doing any of these sins is the same as worshipping a false god. Before, you used the old way of life, but you changed and now have the new way of life. The new way of life will help you to receive true knowledge. If you follow this new way of life, God will help you to become more like Himself. In the new life with God, there is no difference between Greek and Jew, no difference between circumcised people and people not circumcised, no difference between slave and free person. There is only one Christ. Christ is important and Christ is in everything.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, your word is truth. Consecrate (bless) us in the truth.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 12:13–21

One of the men in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Lord, tell my brother to share our father's inheritance (wealth) with me.' Jesus replied, 'My friend, am I your judge? Who said that I should divide things between yourself and your brother?' Then Jesus said to everybody, 'Be careful! Protect yourself from greed and selfishness; a person with a lot of things does not mean that his life is safe.'

Then Jesus told a parable (a story) to the people, 'A man was rich because his land grew lots of

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crops. He thought to himself, "I have plenty of crops. What will I do? I can't keep all my crops because I have not enough room." Then the rich man said, "I know. I will pull down my old barns and build new bigger barns. I will keep all my crops in my new barns. After that, I will tell myself: I have plenty of good things kept safe for many years. I can have an easy life; eat, drink and have a good time." But God said, "Fool! Tonight, you will die. What will happen to all the things you have kept safe? Will all these things still be yours? No!" And Jesus said, 'If a person saves good things for himself, he will never be truly rich. It is better to be rich with God in heaven.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF WISDOM

Wisdom 18:6–9

Long ago, our people knew that one night all the first-born would be killed, but they trusted God. They had a lot of courage. They waited for the salvation of good people and expected the destruction of their enemies. When God punished their enemies, God wanted us to be with him, and he gave us his glory. The holy children of good people (saints) gave God sacrifices in secret. Our good people experienced the same blessings and dangers, and they gave praise to God in the same way as their fathers long ago.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 32

RESPONSE: **ALL PEOPLE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE GOD CHOSE THEM.**

ALL PEOPLE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE GOD CHOSE THEM.

Sing with joy to the Lord because it is good to praise God.

The people are blessed because the Lord God chose them.

The Lord looks on his people; they respect him.

He saves their souls from death.

He keeps the people alive.

ALL PEOPLE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE GOD CHOSE THEM.

Our soul waits for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our protection.

Lord, let your love be with us, And we will trust you.

ALL PEOPLE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE GOD CHOSE THEM.

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

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇅ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–19

* Only faith can help us to be sure of the things we wait and hope for; only faith can help us to be sure of the things that we cannot see. God was pleased with the people of long ago because of their faith.

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Through faith Abraham obeyed God and went to a far country that God promised to give him. Abraham went but he did not know where he was going. Through faith, he arrived as a foreigner and he lived in a strange land. He lived there in tents, with Isaac and Jacob.

It was also through faith that Sarah, the wife of Abraham, an old woman, became pregnant. She conceived because she believed in the promise of God. Because Abraham, an old man, trusted God, there were many descendants (future people), as many as the stars of heaven, or as the sand on the seashore. *

All these people died in faith. They did not immediately receive the things that God promised. They knew they were foreigners living in a strange land, but they believed that in the future God would give them their real country; they were looking for a better home. God is not ashamed to be called their God, and He

founded (established) a heavenly city for them.

God tested Abraham; it was because of faith that Abraham obeyed God and offered his only son Isaac as a sacrifice. God said: 'It is through your son Isaac that your name will continue to be passed on,' and Abraham trusted God. He was confident that God had the power to raise dead people and He would give his son Isaac back to him.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

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ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. We are your children and you show us your kingdom.

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples, 'My friends, do not be afraid. Your Father is pleased to give you his kingdom.

Sell your things and give the money to poor people. It is better to have treasure in heaven that will never disappear. Treasure no one can steal from heaven, no moth can destroy. Because if your treasure is safe in heaven, you will be happy and at peace.'

* Jesus said, 'Be ready, fully dressed with lamps shining. You must be like servants waiting for their master to come back from the wedding feast. Be ready to

open the door quickly when he comes and knocks. If the servants are ready when their master arrives, they will be happy. I tell you the truth, the master will take an apron, he will tell the servants to sit down at the table, and then he (master) will serve them. The servants will probably have to wait till midnight or later, but if they are ready when the master arrives, they will be happy. If the owner of a house knew what time the thief would come, the owner would make sure the thief could not break into the house. In the same way, you must be ready, because you don't know when the Son of Man will come.' *

Peter said, 'Lord, is this parable for us or for all people?' The Lord replied, 'If the servant is good enough, and wise and can be trusted, the master will ask the servant to be in charge of the house and make sure that family and other servants eat their food at the right time. When the master arrives and sees this

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servant working hard, the servant will be happy. I tell you the truth, the master will ask this servant to be in charge of everything. But if the servant says to himself, "My master is late", and he starts to be cruel to the other men and women servants and attacks them. He eats and drinks and becomes drunk. Then the master of the house will come when the servant does not expect him. The master will punish the servant and throw him out, and he will suffer because he was not a good faithful servant.

The servant knows what his master wants, but does not do the work for him (master), that servant will be whipped. If the servant does not know what his master wants, and does no work for him (master), that servant will receive less punishment. Any person that receives many gifts will be responsible for many things. If God gives many gifts to a person because God trusts that person, then God will expect a lot more responsibility from that person.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10

Some chief officers went to the king and said, ‘This man, Jeremiah, must die. He has been talking to the soldiers and the people still living in the city, and because of the things he said he has made them feel discouraged (depressed). He is not helping them, he is making them feel worse.’ King Zedekiah replied, ‘I cannot stop you. Do what you want with him.’ The officers took Jeremiah, and using ropes, threw him into a well. This well belonged to Prince Malchiah in the palace courtyard. There was no water, only mud and Jeremiah was left there.

Ebed-melech from Ethiopia, came out of the palace, went to the king and said, ‘These officers are wicked, they treated Jeremiah cruelly and threw him into the well and left him to die.’ The king ordered Ebed-melech, ‘Take three men with you from here, and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 39

RESPONSE: **LORD, COME AND HELP ME.**

LORD, COME AND HELP ME.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and
He came to help me.
He heard my prayer.
He saved me and helped me walk
again with strength.

LORD, COME AND HELP ME.

The Lord taught me a new song
to praise God.

Many people will trust the Lord.

I am weak and poor, but the Lord
thinks of me.

Lord, come quickly, rescue (save)
and help me.

LORD, COME AND HELP ME.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇕ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 12:1–4

We have so many witnesses with
us, we should get rid of
everything that makes us sin,

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anything that tempts us to sin easily. We should continue running in the race that we started. We should look at Christ and follow him only. He will lead us and he will help our faith become perfect. Jesus accepted the cross because he knew that joy would come later in the future. Jesus accepted the suffering of the cross and he accepted the shame of the crucifixion. Now Jesus sits at the right (side) of God's throne. Think about what Jesus did, he suffered when people were against him. Think about Jesus then you will have courage. You fight against sin and you must continue to fight until death.

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 LUKE

Luke 12:49–53

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I have come to bring fire to the world; I wish it were already burning! Yet I must receive a baptism and I am anxious until it is over (finished).

Do you think that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace, but division. From now on, a family of five will be divided, three against two, and two against three. The father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

21st Sunday of the Year

Psalm 116

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 66:18–21

The Lord says: 'I will come and bring all people together, all people with different languages will come together. They will witness my glory. I will give them a sign; I will send them to different places: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, Javan and to the far islands, to people that have never heard of me or seen my glory. These people will proclaim my glory to everybody. They will bring all your brothers and sisters, on horses, in chariots, on mules, on camels. They will come to my holy mountain in Jerusalem. They will offer gifts to me, the same as Israelites bring offerings on clean plates to the Temple of the Lord. I will make some of these people become priests and Levites. I, the Lord, say this.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.**

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

All you people praise the Lord!
Let us praise and honour him.

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

His love for us is strong.
He is always faithful.

GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD.

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 12:5–7, 11–13

Do not forget the words from the scripture (Bible) that says you are sons and daughters. Do not think it is worth nothing if the Lord punishes you. Do not be discouraged if the Lord shows that you are wrong, he is trying to help you. The Lord teaches the people he loves. He punishes the people he loves. Suffering is part of your training. You are his sons

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and daughters. When God punishes you, it proves that he loves you, the same as a father that tries to help his children. Of course, punishment is painful and not easy to accept. But later, after you accept it, you will receive peace and goodness. So stand firm, walk with confidence. You will not be lost and you will grow strong again.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

If any person loves me (Jesus), they will keep my word. My Father will love them and we will come to them.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 13:22–30

Jesus was walking through towns and villages, teaching the people. He continued to go towards

Jerusalem. Someone said to Jesus, 'Lord, how many people will be saved? Only a few?' Jesus said, 'Try your best to enter (go in) through the narrow door, because I tell you, many people will try to go in but they will fail.

After a man has locked the door of his house, you could find yourself standing outside, knocking on the door saying "Lord, open the door and let us in," but the man inside the house will say "I don't know where you come from." Then you will say, "You know us. We ate and drank with you. You taught in our streets." But he will reply, "I don't know you. Go away, you wicked people!"

When you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in God's kingdom, but you are outside, you will suffer and scream because you cannot get in. People will come from east and west, from north and south, and all will sit down at the feast in the kingdom of God.

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Yes, all the people that used to have the last and lowest place in life will be put in the first and best place, and all those that used to have the first and best place will be put in the last and lowest place in the kingdom of God.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

22nd Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF ECCLESIASTICUS

Ecclesiasticus 3:17–20, 28–29

When you do business, be gentle and people will love you more than a person that spends and gives a lot. If you want to be important and great, you must become humble, then God will be pleased with you. The Lord is powerful, but he accepts worship from humble people. When a proud person is ill, there is no cure because evil has grown in their heart. But if a good sensible person reads the stories in the scriptures (Bible), thinks and prays carefully with the heart, this person will become wise.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 67

RESPONSE: **GOD, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GOOD, YOU PREPARED A HOME FOR POOR PEOPLE.**

GOD, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GOOD, YOU PREPARED A HOME FOR POOR PEOPLE.

The good people will rejoice in the presence of God.

They will praise Him and dance with joy.

They will make music to his name.

GOD, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GOOD, YOU PREPARED A HOME FOR POOR PEOPLE.

God is Father of the orphan (children with no parents).

God protects widows.

God gives lonely people a home to live in.

GOD, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GOOD, YOU PREPARED A HOME FOR POOR PEOPLE.

God lets prisoners free.

God sends rain and gives people new life.

Because of your goodness, you God give a home to the poor.

GOD, BECAUSE YOU ARE SO GOOD, YOU PREPARED A HOME FOR POOR PEOPLE.

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ↕ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24

You have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. It is not a place like any mountain, it is not the same as people expected. It is something very different, something that no one knew or saw before; it is not like a fire, nor despair, nor storm, nor the strong voice that made people so afraid that they do not want to hear it any more. No, you have come to the heavenly Jerusalem where millions of angels have come for the festival. You have come to a joyful celebration with the Church. There you will be with God's first-born children; a person of heaven. You have come to God; He is the judge of all people. You will be with all the saints, they have been made perfect. You have come to Jesus; He is the one that brings the new covenant.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

If any person loves me (Jesus), they will keep my word. My Father will love them and we will come to them.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 14:1, 7–14

One sabbath day Jesus went for a meal in the home of an important Pharisee. Other Pharisees watched Jesus carefully. Jesus saw that some people picked the best places to sit. So Jesus told them a parable, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not sit in the best place. Perhaps another person more important than you has been invited, and your friend that invited you will say to you, "Please give your place to this person". You will have to get up, go and find another seat in the lowest place, and you will be embarrassed. So, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. Then your friend that

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invited you, will say to you, "Come, my friend, I will give you a better seat." People will see and you will feel honoured. Yes, any person that has the last and lowest place in life will receive the first and best place. A person that has the first and best place in this life will receive the last and lowest place in God's kingdom.'

Then Jesus said to the Pharisee that invited him, 'When you give a meal or party, do not invite your friends, brothers, relatives, or rich people, because you know they will invite you to their party later. When you give a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, because you know they are poor and they cannot pay you back. This means you are blessed because God will reward you.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

23rd Sunday of the Year

Psalm 89

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF WISDOM

Wisdom 9:13–18

Can any person know God's mind? Who knows what God wants? The way we think is not perfect. What we want is never right. Our weak bodies make it difficult for our souls. Our body also makes it difficult for our minds. It is hard work for us to learn about things on earth. It is difficult to understand our souls. Who can know what is in heaven? God, You sent the Holy Spirit from heaven and You gave us Wisdom. God, through your gift of wisdom, You helped us to know what you want. On earth, our paths were made straight, and people learnt to walk the right way and know how to please You. Through Wisdom, You saved us.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.**

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

Lord, to You, one thousand years are the same as one day.

Like yesterday, come and gone.

We are like grass that grows quickly in the morning.

But when it is evening, the grass becomes dry and it dies.

Give us wisdom so that we will realise our life is short like the grass.

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

Lord, forgive us, show pity to us. In the morning, fill us with your love.

We will rejoice everyday of our lives.

Let your blessings be always with us.

LORD, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT US.

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A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO PHILEMON

Philemon 1:9–10, 12–17

I, Paul, write to you. I'm an old man now and I'm still a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I write to you about my son, Onesimus. He became my son while I was in prison. Now I send him back to you and my heart is with him. I wanted to keep him with me so that he could help me while I'm in prison. I'm in prison because of the Good News (gospel). But I do not want to force you to do anything, I want you to be free. If you want to be kind, I know you will help me. I know you missed Onesimus, but now you will have him with you always, not as a slave but better than a slave, he is your dear brother. He is very special to me, but I know he will be even more special to you, as a blood-brother, as well as a brother in the Lord. So if you think of me as your special friend, welcome Onesimus the same as you would welcome me.

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 LUKE

Luke 14:25–33

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me but loves father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters more than me, then that person cannot be my disciple. Any person that does not carry the cross and follow me, cannot be my disciple.'

If you want to build a tower, you must sit down first to make a plan and find out how much it will cost. You need to know if you have enough money to finish the job. If you start building and later

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realise that you cannot finish building the tower, all the people watching will laugh at you. They will say, "This man wanted to build a tower, but now he cannot finish the job." If a king goes to war against another king, first he will sit down and plan. If the king has only 10,000 soldiers and the other king has 20,000 soldiers, he knows he cannot go to war because he will lose. He will send messengers to meet the other king and try to make peace.' Jesus said, 'In the same way, if you want to be my disciple, you must give up everything you have and follow me.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF EXODUS

Exodus 32:7–11, 13–14

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Now, go down the mountain. The people you led from Egypt have sinned and rejected me. They gave up following my way. They made a golden calf from melted gold and now they worship the golden calf and are making sacrifices to it. They tell other people that the golden calf is their god, and that this god helped them escape from Egypt.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘I see these people, they are very stubborn. I am angry with them, and I will destroy them. Leave me, do not try to stop me; I will make a great people from you.’

But Moses begged the Lord his God and said, ‘Please do not be angry with your people, you saved them from Egypt with power and might. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; they are your servants. You promised you would make a great people, as many as the stars in the sky. You promised to give them land

forever.’ So the Lord changed his mind and did not punish his people.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 50

RESPONSE: **I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.**

I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

Have mercy on me, God.

Wipe away my sins!

Because of your great compassion,

cleanse me and take away my guilt.

I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

Create (make) a pure heart within me, O God,

Put a strong spirit within me, give me your Holy Spirit.

and I will teach people your ways..

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I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

Lord, open my heart and my mind,
and I shall praise you.
Accept my humble sacrifice,
And I will proclaim your goodness.

I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO TIMOTHY

1 Timothy 1:12–17

I thank Jesus Christ our Lord because he has given me strength. I thank him for judging me worthy to work for him. In the past I used to swear against God. I persecuted Jesus Christ and I did things to destroy the faith. But God was merciful to me because I did not know what I was doing. Through grace, Christ gave me faith and love. This quotation is true: 'Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.' Nobody should doubt this truth. I, Paul, am the worst sinner, but God

showed his mercy and patience with me as an example to other people, so that if all people believe in him, they will have eternal life. Honour and glory to the only King; God lives for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Let the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ open our minds, so that we can understand the hope he gives us.

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 15:1–32

* One day many tax-collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes (writers) complained. They said, 'This man, Jesus, welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So

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Jesus told them this parable (story):

‘Suppose a shepherd has a hundred (100) sheep, but loses one sheep; what will he do? He will leave the ninety-nine (99) sheep, and he will go to look for the lost sheep until he finds it. After he finds the lost sheep, he will be so happy, he will carry the sheep on his shoulders and take it home. Then he will tell his friends, "Look, I found my lost sheep! Rejoice with me." In the same way, I (Jesus) tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents, than over ninety-nine good people that don't need to repent.

Or, suppose a woman has ten silver coins; but she loses one; what will she do? She will light a lamp, clean the house and look carefully until she finds the lost coin. And when she finds it, she will tell her friends, "Look, I found my lost coin, rejoice with me." In the same way, I (Jesus) tell you, the angels of God will rejoice over one sinner that repents.’ *

Jesus also said, ‘A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Father, give me my share of your money now." So the father divided his wealth and his money between the two sons. A few days later, the younger son had everything ready and he left. He travelled to another country. Like a fool, he spent all his money on drink, parties, prostitutes and wild living.

Later, after he had spent all his money, a very bad famine (no food) happened in that country so there was nothing to eat. He was hungry and had no money, so he went to work on a farm feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig's food, but no one gave him anything. Then he realised that he had been very foolish. He thought, "My father pays his servants and the servants have plenty of food to eat. But I am here dying of hunger! I will go back and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I

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am not worthy to be your son. Give me a job the same as one of your servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

While the son was still far away, his father saw him. He felt pity for him. The father ran to the boy and hugged and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe. Give him a ring and sandals. Then go, find the best fat calf and kill it. We will have a feast, a celebration (party), because my son was dead and now he is alive again! He was lost and now he is found!" So they began to celebrate.

The older son was working in the fields. When he came back to the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants, "What's happening?" The servant said, "Your brother has come and your father has killed the fat calf, because he is back home safe." He was angry and refused to go in, so his father

came out and asked him to come in. But the older son said to his father. "I worked hard like a slave for many years for you. I never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a kid (baby goat) for me to celebrate with my friends. But your other son wasted all your money on women, and now he has come home, and you killed the best calf for him."

The father answered, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But it is right that we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, and now he is found."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

25th Sunday of the Year

Psalm 112

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF AMOS

Amos 8:4–7

Listen to me. You crush weak people, you try to suppress the poor people of the country. You want to know when the New Moon is finished so that you can sell your corn. You want to know when the Sabbath is finished so that you can sell your wheat. You used scales (balance) and changed the weights so that you could charge more money and cheat people, and make a profit for yourselves. This way poor people can't afford sandals or the sweepings of the wheat (left-overs), then you buy them as slaves. Using the name of Jacob the Lord promised, 'I will never forget the evil things you have done.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **PRAISE THE LORD,
GOD HELPS THE POOR.**

**PRAISE THE LORD, GOD HELPS
THE POOR.**

Alleluia!

Praise the name of the Lord!

The Lord rules all the world.

His glory is in the heavens.

No one is the same as our God.

**PRAISE THE LORD, GOD HELPS
THE POOR.**

From the heavens God looks
down.

He sees the poor and raises them
from the dust.

God wants the poor to live in the
company of rich people.

Yes, God lets his people live in the
company of important people.

**PRAISE THE LORD, GOD HELPS
THE POOR.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇄ TO TIMOTHY

1 Timothy 2:1–8

First of all, I want you to pray
asking God to help all people.
Pray and thank God. Pray

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especially for kings and for those that have authority (power). Pray that we can have holy, peaceful lives, giving worship and reverence (respect) to God. This is the right way, this will please God. God wants all people to be saved and God wants all people to know the full truth. There is only one God. And there is only one way people can go to God. That way is through Jesus Christ, himself a man. Jesus gave his life to save all people. This happened at the right time so God could save everybody. That is why Jesus chose me to become an apostle to proclaim the Good News. I am telling the truth and no lie - I teach the faith and truth to all pagans (non-believers).

I want people to pray everywhere. I want them to lift up their hands in prayer, without anger or argument, and with respect.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, open our hearts to receive the words of your Son.

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, 'A rich man had a manager to help control his business. One day the rich man asked the manager to come and see him. The rich man said, "I hear that you've been managing badly and wasting my money. Give me a report of what you have done with my money. Then you are finished as my manager." The manager thought to himself, "Now the rich man has sacked me, what will I do? Dig? No, I am not strong enough. Beg? No, because I will be ashamed. I know what I will do. I will do something so that when I lose my job, some of my friends will welcome me into their homes."

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So the manager went to see the people that owed money to the rich man. The manager asked the first person, "How much do you owe my master?" This person answered, "I owe 100lbs of olive oil." The manager said to him, "Sit down and write the bill for 50lbs." Then the manager went to see another man and asked him how much he owed the rich man. The man said, "I owe 100lbs of wheat." The manager said, "Here is your bill. Write down 80lbs."

The master praised the crafty (clever/sly) manager for thinking and working quickly.' Jesus said, 'Business people are crafty and more skilled than spiritual people, especially when working with other worldly people.

I (Jesus) tell you: use your money, money that maybe be tainted (corrupted/bad), to make friends. Be generous so that when the money is gone, you will always be welcomed into their homes forever.'

* Jesus said to his disciples, 'If no one can trust you with small things, then who will trust you with big things? If a person is not honest with small things, then that person will not be honest with big things too. If no one can trust you with money, then who will trust you with real wealth or worldly riches? And if no one trusts you with things that belong to another person, then who will give you the things that belong to you?

No person can serve both God and money. Either he will hate God and love money. Or, he will love God with respect and not trust money, because he knows that money can be dangerous. You cannot love both God and money at the same time.' *

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF AMOS

Amos 6:1, 4–7

God almighty says this:

You people living in comfort in Zion, and you that feel safe living on the mountain of Samaria, terrible things will happen to you. Those of you lying comfortably on ivory beds, eating lamb and veal, it will be terrible for you. You sing and play the harp like King David; you drink a lot of wine from bowls and use the best expensive oil to anoint yourselves, tragedy (evil) will happen to you. Dreadful (terrible) things will happen because you are not bothered about people suffering in the land of Joseph. After your good time and partying finishes, you will be the first to be taken into exile (sent to) in a foreign land.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 145

RESPONSE: MY SOUL, PRAISE THE LORD.

MY SOUL, PRAISE THE LORD.

The Lord is faithful forever.

God is fair to oppressed people.

He gives bread to the hungry.

The Lord frees the prisoners.

MY SOUL, PRAISE THE LORD.

The Lord helps blind people see.

God helps those with heavy burdens.

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

The Lord God reigns forever.

MY SOUL, PRAISE THE LORD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇅ TO TIMOTHY

1 Timothy 6:11–16

You believe in God and you want to do your best for God. You must try to live like a saint, with faith and love, always be patient and gentle. You must try hard to keep your faith strong, and you will receive the eternal life that God wants to give you. You promised

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to follow Christ and firmly showed your faith to other witnesses. Now, in front of God, and in front of Jesus Christ - the same Jesus that stood in front of Pontius Pilate and spoke the truth - I remind you of your duty: to do things without fault or failure, and to obey until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

At the right time, God will reveal (show) the Lord Jesus Christ. God is the only Ruler of all people. God is the King of all kings, the Lord. God will live forever. God lives in a light so bright no one can look at the light. No person has ever seen God. Honour and power to God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Lord says, 'The sheep listen to my voice. They belong to me (Jesus). I know them and they follow me.'

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man with very expensive clothes. He ate wonderful rich food everyday. Outside his gates, there was a poor man named Lazarus, his body full of sores. Lazarus waited at the gates hoping for some scraps of food from the rich man's table. Dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died. Angels came and carried him into heaven to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

The rich man went to the place of death, named Hades; he was in terrible suffering. He looked up and saw Abraham and Lazarus far

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away. He shouted, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Tell Lazarus to come to me, so that he can put his finger in water and cool my tongue because I am suffering in this fire." Abraham replied, "Remember, during your life on earth, you had all the good things. Lazarus was poor and he had nothing. Now he is enjoying himself here, and you are suffering now. Also, there is a deep wide valley between you and us. No person can leave us and cross (go) over to help you, and no one can leave your place to come here."

The rich man said, "Then please send Lazarus to my father's house on earth because I have five brothers. Lazarus could warn my brothers so that they do not come to this place of death and suffering." Abraham said, "Your brothers have already been warned by Moses and the prophets; your brothers should listen to them." But the rich man said, "No, father Abraham. That is not enough. Better that someone rise from the dead and go to my

brothers. Then they will believe and change their hearts." Abraham replied, "If your brothers won't listen to Moses and the prophets, then they will not listen to someone risen from the dead."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

27th Sunday of the Year

Psalm 94

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF HABAKKUK

Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4

Lord, how long must I shout for help? When will you listen? When will you save me from oppression? You see cruelty and injustice, but you do nothing? I look around, I see people do terrible things, and awful violence.

Then the Lord answered, ‘Write down in simple language so people will understand. This is about something that will happen soon. Perhaps it will come slowly, but it will happen. Be patient and wait. See the proud people, their spirit is not right, they give up. But a good person will live with faith and follow God.’

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.

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A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ↕ TO TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14

I remind you again about the gift God gave you after I put my hands on your heads. Let this gift spread like fire. God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid or become soft. God gave us the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you should not be ashamed of witnessing for the Lord. You should not be ashamed of me (Paul), because I am a prisoner of the Lord. But suffer with me for the Good News (gospel). God will give you and me the strength to do that.

Obey the true teachings I gave you, keeping the faith and love

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 LUKE

Luke 17:5–10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Help our faith.' The Lord replied, "If your faith were like a small mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Throw yourself into the sea," and the tree would obey you and throw itself into the sea.

Suppose you have a servant digging in the field or looking after sheep. When he has finished working and he comes in from the field, would you say to him, "Sit down and eat now?" No! You would tell the servant, "Quick! Change, make yourself clean, bring my supper for me to eat and serve me. After I have finished eating, you yourself can eat and drink later." The servant

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should obey, do the job and not wait for any special thanks. So it is the same with you: you should say, "We are only servants. We work because it is our duty."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

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Psalm 97

A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL ⇄ OF KINGS

2 Kings 5:14–17

Naaman was a leper. Elisha told him to go and wash himself in the River Jordan seven times. He went into the river seven times and his flesh became clean and smooth again, like the flesh of a little child.

Naaman went back with his soldiers and said to Elisha, ‘Now I know that there is no God on earth, but the God of Israel. Please accept a gift from me.’ But Elisha replied, ‘As long as I serve the Lord, my God, I will not accept anything.’ Naaman wanted to give a gift, but Elisha refused. Then Naaman said, ‘Because you will not accept my gift, allow me to take enough earth that two mules (donkeys) can carry. Because from now on, I will never offer sacrifices to any god, but only to the Lord God of Israel.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: THE LORD SHOWS HIS SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE.

THE LORD SHOWS HIS SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE.

Sing to the Lord.

He has done wonderful things!

By his power God saved all people.

He kept his promise to the people of Israel.

THE LORD SHOWS HIS SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE.

God remembered his love for us. All people saw the victory of our God.

Sing with joy to the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

THE LORD SHOWS HIS SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE.

**A READING FROM ST PAUL’S
SECOND SCROLL ⇅ TO
TIMOTHY**

2 Timothy 2:8–13

Remember the Good News I bring: ‘Jesus Christ, risen from the dead; He was born from the family of King David.’ Because of

28th Sunday of the Year

this I suffer, I'm chained in prison; they treat me like a thief, but they cannot chain God's Good News. So, I accept suffering for the gospel to help all God's chosen people, so that you will be saved by Jesus Christ, and receive eternal glory. This quote is true: 'If we died with Christ, we will live with Christ. If we are patient, we will reign (rule) with Christ. If we reject Christ, He will reject us. We are not always faithful, but Christ is always faithful. Christ cannot lie to himself.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Lord, your words are spirit. Your words have life. You have the message of eternal life.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 17:11–19

Jesus was walking to Jerusalem along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus

arrived at a small village, ten people came to meet Jesus. They did not come near Jesus, because they all had leprosy. They shouted to him, 'Jesus! Master! Please have mercy on us!' Jesus saw them and said, 'Go to the priests and let them see you.' The ten lepers went on their way to see the priests, and they were healed. One man realised he was healed; he came back praising God with a loud voice. He knelt down in front of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan, not a Jew. Jesus said, 'Ten lepers were healed. Where are the other nine? Only one, a foreigner, came back to praise God.' And Jesus said to him, 'Stand up and go. Your faith has saved you.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

29th Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF EXODUS

Exodus 17:8–13

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites (Jews) at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick some men, and then tomorrow go and fight the Amalekites. I myself will stand on top of the hill. I will pray, with God's staff (stick) in my hand.' Joshua picked his men and went out to fight. Moses went to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. When Moses raised his arms, the Israelites (Jews) were winning the battle (fight). But when Moses put his arms down, the Israelites began to lose. Moses was tired, his arms were heavy. Aaron and Hur fetched a stone and Moses sat down. Aaron and Hur helped hold Moses' arms; Aaron on one side, Hur on the other. With the help of the two men, Moses' arms were raised all day until sunset. Joshua and his men won the fight and defeated (beat) the Amalekites.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 120

RESPONSE: **THE LORD HELPS ME. HE CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

THE LORD HELPS ME. HE CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.

I look to the mountains;
Where will my help come from?
The Lord will help me.
The Lord created heaven and earth.

THE LORD HELPS ME. HE CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.

The Lord will never allow you to fall.
The Lord never sleeps.
The Lord is near you, the Lord protects you.
The Lord will keep you safe, now and forever.

THE LORD HELPS ME. HE CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.

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A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ↕ TO TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

You must follow the teachings that you learned. You know the teachings are true, so you must believe. You know your teachers. You learnt the scriptures (Bible) while you grew up, and you learnt wisdom. This wisdom helps you and leads you to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The scriptures (Bible) were written by people; God inspired them to write. The scriptures (Bible) can be used for teaching, making sure people do not spread wrong teachings, guiding people's lives, and teaching them to become holy. Any person that follows God will be better able to serve God and be ready for any good work.

In the presence of God and Jesus Christ - Jesus will judge all people, the living and the dead, and he will come to rule as King - I remind you of your duty: you must preach the message, it does not matter if people want or don't want to receive the

message, you must always be ready to preach. Stop spreading lies and false teachings. Patiently teach people to obey God's message.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Let God the Father open our minds, so that we will understand the hope that He gives us.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples that they should always pray and never give up hope. Jesus taught them this parable (story):

'There was a judge living in a town. He did not respect anyone. He was not afraid of God or the people. In the same town there was a woman, a widow. The widow went to the judge many

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times to complain and said, "My enemy is against me. I want justice." The judge refused to help. After a long time, the judge thought to himself, "I don't care about God or people, but this widow comes back to me again and again, bothering me. So I will help her. If I don't give her what she wants, she will come and bother me and I will be worn out."

The Lord Jesus said, 'You see that man was not a good judge. When people pray to God everyday, God will always hear their prayers and help them. God is not slow to give justice to his people. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth with faith?'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

30th Sunday of the Year

Psalm 33

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF ECCLESIASTICUS

Ecclesiasticus 35:12–14, 16–19

The Lord is a judge. The Lord has no favourites, he is fair to everyone. The Lord listens to the prayers of all people and those that suffer because of injustice. The Lord will not ignore those children with no parents, the Lord will not ignore the widows. The people that serve God with all their heart, God will accept, and their prayers will rise to heaven. The prayers of the humble will go through the clouds. They will not stop praying until God hears their prayers and helps them. The Lord will not be slow. The Lord will judge and help good people.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSE: **THE POOR MAN PRAYED. THE LORD HEARD HIM.**

THE POOR MAN PRAYED. THE LORD HEARD HIM.

I will always bless the Lord.
My soul is proud of my Lord.
The humble people pray to the Lord,
and they will be glad.

THE POOR MAN PRAYED. THE LORD HEARD HIM.

Good people pray to the Lord,
The Lord hears and saves them.
The Lord is very near to the broken-hearted.
He saves their souls.

THE POOR MAN PRAYED. THE LORD HEARD HIM.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ⇅ TO TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

I am ready to sacrifice my life;
now is the time for me to go. I
persevered to the end. I did my
best in the race. I kept the faith.

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And the reward of reconciliation in heaven waits for me. The Lord, the good Judge, will give the reward to me on the last day. He will also give the same reward to any person that waits patiently for his coming.

The first time I defended myself, no one helped me. Everyone ran away from me, there were no witnesses. I pray that God will forgive them. The Lord stayed with me. He gave me strength, so that I was able to proclaim the full message of Jesus Christ to all the pagans (non-believers). The Lord saved me from my enemies. He will save me from all people that try to do evil things to me. The Lord will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. Glory to the Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for showing us your kingdom.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 18:9–14

Jesus was watching some people, they proudly thought they were very good and they looked down on other people. Jesus told this parable (story) to these proud people: 'Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee stood and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not bad like other people. I am not like those that are greedy, not honest or adulterous. I thank you that I am not like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week, and I give you one-tenth of everything I earn." The tax-collector stood at the back of the Temple. He prayed and would not look up to heaven.

30th Sunday of the Year

He beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner." Jesus said, 'I tell you, after this man, the tax-collector, finished his prayer, he went home at peace with God. The other man, the Pharisee, was not in favour with God. So any person that makes themselves important will be humbled, but any person that humbles themselves will be made important.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

31st Sunday of the Year

Psalm 144

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF WISDOM

Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2

Lord, you look at the world; the world is like dust changing the balance on the weighing scales, or like a drop of morning dew on the ground. But you are merciful to all people because you can do all things. You forget people's sins so that they can repent. You love everything you created, and there is nothing you created that you do not like. If there was something you did not like, you would not have created it. Nothing can live without you. You keep all things safe because you created them and they belong to you. You love all living things, and your spirit is in all things. Those that do wrong, you help them to be good again; you remind them and warn them of their sins, so that they can stop sinning and trust in you, Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

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 (helps) all that are weak.

I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD, MY KING.

31st Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 2:2

We always pray for you. We ask God to make you worthy of the vocation he gave you. We pray, that through his power, God will help you to do all the good things and to work with faith. In this way, the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will receive glory from you. And through the grace of God, you will also receive glory from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we want to say something about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know we will be together with him. Please do not become excited or worried when you see people saying that Jesus Christ has already come. If you hear a rumour (gossip) or see a letter saying Jesus has already come, that rumour (gossip) or letter is false.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Blessings on the King that comes in the name of the Lord!

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 19:1–10

Jesus arrived at Jericho and was going through the town. There was a man named Zacchaeus, he was one of the important tax collectors, and he was very rich. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was a short man and because of the crowd he could not see Jesus. So Zacchaeus ran ahead (forward) and found a sycamore tree; he climbed the tree. Jesus walked past the tree, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Jesus said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down, quickly. I must stay at your house today.' Zacchaeus came down and joyfully welcomed Jesus into his house. All the people saw this happen and complained, 'Jesus has gone to the house of

31st Sunday of the Year

Zacchaeus, a sinner.' But Zacchaeus said to Jesus, 'I will give half my money to the poor. If I have cheated any person I will pay that person four times more!' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house; this man is also a son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to find lost people and save them.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

32nd Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL ⇄ OF MACCABEES

2 Maccabees 7:1–2, 9–14

The king arrested seven brothers and their mother. The Law did not allow Jewish people to eat pork, but the king tried to force them to eat pig's flesh by torture using whips. One of the brothers, speaking for the others, said, 'What do you want to find out from us? We are ready to die rather than break the Laws of our people.'

Before the second brother died, he said, 'You are cruel, you can kill us, but the King of the world will raise us to everlasting life because we are prepared to follow his laws to death.'

After the second brother died, the king's men tortured the third brother and told him to put out his tongue. The third brother put out his tongue and also showed his hands, he said, 'Heaven gave me these arms and hands. I am not worried about them. From God I hope to receive arms and

hands again.' The king and the others were surprised at the young man's courage and his acceptance of suffering.

After the third brother died, the king's men cruelly tortured the fourth brother in the same way. Before the fourth brother died, he shouted, 'We make the better choice, we accept death from you but we follow God's promise and we believe God will raise us up again. But for you, there is no resurrection, no new life.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 16

RESPONSE: **WHEN I AWAKE,
YOUR GLORY WILL GIVE ME
JOY.**

**WHEN I AWAKE, YOUR GLORY
WILL GIVE ME JOY.**

Lord, listen to my prayers.

I pray for justice and my prayers are honest.

I always follow your way.

I am here and I pray to you God for help.

32nd Sunday of the Year

WHEN I AWAKE, YOUR GLORY WILL GIVE ME JOY.

Turn to me God and listen to my prayers.

Protect me, hide me under your wings.

When I awake, I will see your face
And your glory will give me joy.

WHEN I AWAKE, YOUR GLORY WILL GIVE ME JOY.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND SCROLL ↕ TO THE THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5

Let the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, comfort you and give you courage. Through the grace and love of God, Jesus will make you strong and encourage you to do good.

Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Pray that the Lord's teaching will spread quickly. Pray that people will accept the Lord's teaching with respect the same as you did. Also, pray for us that God will protect us from evil and narrow-minded people that interfere with

our work; because faith is not given to all people. The Lord is faithful. He will give you strength and protect you from the devil. With the Lord, we are confident in you; we know you will do good and do all that we ask you. I pray the Lord will encourage you to focus (concentrate) on the love of God and the strength of Christ.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Stay awake! Pray always for the strength to stand with confidence in front of the Son of Man.

ALLELUIA!

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 20:27–38

* Some Sadducees came to Jesus. Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection. They asked Jesus a question: *

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‘Master, Moses wrote that if a married man died and had no children, then his brother must marry the widow, so that they could have children. Well, there were seven (7) brothers. The first brother married a woman, but he died and they had no children. So the second brother married the widow, but he died. Then the third brother married the widow, and he also died. The same thing happened with all the other brothers; they all died and had no children. Last of all, the woman herself died. Now, on the day of the resurrection, which brother will the woman be wife to, because she had married all seven brothers?’

* Jesus replied, ‘On earth, people marry each other. But the people that are worthy to rise again to new life in heaven, they will not marry because they will be like angels and cannot die. They are children of God, because they have risen from death. Moses

himself proved that the dead are raised to new life. In the story about the burning bush, he said that the Lord is the "God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." This means that he is God of all living people, not dead people. To God, all people are alive.’ *

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

33rd Sunday of the Year

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇌ OF MALACHI

Malachi 3:19–20

The Lord almighty says, ‘The day is coming soon, all proud and evil people will burn like straw. On that day they will burn and there will be no branch and no root; there will be nothing left. But you that respect my name, my saving power will rise like the sun, and my healing light will shine on you.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 97

RESPONSE: **THE LORD RULES
HIS PEOPLE WITH FAIRNESS.**

**THE LORD RULES HIS PEOPLE
WITH FAIRNESS.**

Sing to the Lord with harp and music.

Blow trumpets and praise the King.

Let the sea praise the Lord.

Let the rivers praise the Lord.

**THE LORD RULES HIS PEOPLE
WITH FAIRNESS.**

Let the hills sing with joy.

The Lord is coming.

The Lord comes to rule the earth.

The Lord will rule the world with justice and fairness.

**THE LORD RULES HIS PEOPLE
WITH FAIRNESS.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL’S SECOND SCROLL ⇕ TO THE THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

You yourselves know very well that you should live the same way we live. When we were with you, we were not lazy. After we had our meals at your table, we always paid for the food. We worked hard every day and every night, so that we would not make life more difficult for you. We knew we could ask you for help, but we wanted to give you an example to follow.

When we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘If a person refuses to work, then that person is not

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allowed to eat.' Now we know that some of your people refused to work. They became lazy doing nothing but interfering with other people's work. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we warn these people: we order them to start working quietly and earn money so that they can eat.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Stay awake! Pray always for the strength to stand with confidence in front of the Son of Man.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 21:5-19

Some people were talking about the Temple. They said, 'This is a beautiful Temple, built with the best stones.' Jesus said, 'In the future, all this that you see, will be destroyed and gone.' They asked

him, 'When will the Temple be destroyed? How will we know when it will happen?'

Jesus said, 'Be careful! Don't let other people fool you. Many will come using my name. They will say, "I am the Christ - now is the time." You must refuse to follow them. When you hear about wars, riots (rebellion) and troubles, don't be afraid. These things must happen, but the end is not soon.' Jesus continued telling them, 'Nations (countries/peoples) will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be terrible earthquakes, plagues (sicknesses), and famines (drought, no rain) everywhere. There will be terrible things happening from the sky.

But before all this happens, people will seize (take) you, arrest you, persecute you and throw you into prison. Kings and governors will judge you because of me (Jesus). This will be your chance to tell the Good News. Remember: you must not worry about what to say. I will help you

33rd Sunday of the Year

and give you much wisdom, that no one will be able to say anything against you. Parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends will betray you. Some will condemn you to death. All people will hate you because you follow me and my name. But you will not lose your life. Through your endurance (patience and perseverance) you will win your life.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

Christ the King

A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL ⇄ OF SAMUEL

2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the family-groups of Israel came to David at Hebron. They said to him, 'We are your flesh and blood. In the past, when Saul was our king, you led the people of Israel in battle (war). The Lord said to you, "You will become the shepherd of my people, Israel (Jews). You will become the leader of Israel."' So all the leaders of Israel came to David at Hebron. David made an agreement with the people in the presence of the Lord. The leaders anointed David and he became King of Israel.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 121

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

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

I rejoiced when they said,
'Let us go to God's house.
And now we are here,
Standing inside the city of
Jerusalem.

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

Jerusalem is a strong city, well
built.

People go there to thank the
Lord.

In the house of David,
People praise the Lord's name.

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

Christ the King

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1:12–20

We thank God the Father because he made it possible for you to join the saints and to receive the light with them.

This is what God has done: God freed us from the power of darkness and evil. And God brought us safe into the kingdom of his Son; through Jesus we have redemption and the forgiveness of our sins.

No one can see God. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God. Christ is the first born of all creation.

Through him God created everything in heaven and on earth; things we see and things we cannot see, Kings, Rulers, Lords and spiritual powers - all things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ lived before anything was created, and all things continue to live because of him. Christ is the head of the body; the body is the Church. Christ is the

Beginning, the first born raised from the dead, so he is above all things.

God wanted perfection in Christ and through his death on the cross, God reconciled everything in heaven and everything on earth; God reconciled all things to himself, giving peace through the death of Jesus on the cross.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Christ the King

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 LUKE

Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching Jesus. The Jewish leaders mocked Jesus and said, 'Jesus saved other people. If he is God's Chosen One, the Christ, let him save himself!' The soldiers also mocked Jesus, and when they came to give Jesus vinegar (sour wine) they said to him, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!' On top of the cross was written: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the thieves insulted Jesus saying, 'Are you the Christ? Save yourself, and save us!' But the other thief told him off and said, 'Have you no respect for God? You got the same punishment as

Jesus. You and I should be punished, but Jesus did nothing wrong.' Then this good thief turned to Jesus and said, 'Jesus, remember me when you enter into your kingdom.' Jesus replied, 'Yes, truly I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise (place before heaven).'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

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