

Feasts and Holy Days

CHRISTMAS, PROPER I

ISAIAH 9:2–7; PSALM 96;
TITUS 2:11–14; LUKE 2:1–14 (15–20)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. ISAIAH 9:2–7

PSALM

Refrain **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.** ¹Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. ²Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. ⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. **R** ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the Lord who made the heavens. ⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power

and the splendour of his sanctuary! ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and power. ⁸Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts. **R** ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.” ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein. **R** ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. ¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth. **R**

PSALM 96

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TITUS

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

TITUS 2:11–14

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken

while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.] LUKE 2:1–14 (15–20)

CHRISTMAS, PROPER II

ISAIAH 62:6–12; PSALM 97;
TITUS 3:4–7; LUKE 2:(1–7) 8–20

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest,⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.⁸ The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured;⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it

shall drink it in my holy courts.¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.¹¹ The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”¹² They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.” ISAIAH 62:6–12

PSALM

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ¹The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. ²Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne. R ³A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side. ⁴His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid. R ⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. ⁶The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. R ⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before him, all you gods. ⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord. R ⁹For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. ¹⁰The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. R ¹¹Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted. ¹²Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name. R

PSALM 97

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TITUS

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

TITUS 3:4-7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

[¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.]

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LUKE 2:(1-7) 8-20

CHRISTMAS, PROPER III

ISAIAH 52:7–10; PSALM 98;
HEBREWS 1:1–4 (5–12); JOHN 1:1–14

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. ISAIAH 52:7–10

PSALM

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ¹Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. ²With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. R ³The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. ⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. R ⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. ⁶Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. R ⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord. ⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. R ⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge

the earth.¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. R PSALM 98

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” ⁷Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” ⁸But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” ¹⁰And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing

they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”] HEBREWS 1:1–4 (5–12)

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the

light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:1–14

THE NAMING OF JESUS

1 JANUARY

NUMBERS 6:22–27; PSALM 8;

GALATIANS 4:4–7 OR PHILIPPIANS 2:5–11; LUKE 2:15–21

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

²²The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, ²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. ²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

NUMBERS 6:22–27

PSALM

Refrain **O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world!** ¹O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! ²Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. **R** ³You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.

⁴When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, ⁵What is man that you should be mindful of him? the son of man that you should seek him out? ⁶You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honour; **R** ⁷You give him mastery over the works of your hands; you put all things under his feet; ⁸All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, **R** ⁹The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. ¹⁰O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! **R** PSALM 8

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the

law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. GALATIANS 4:4–7

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5–11

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

LUKE 2:15–21

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

6 JANUARY

ISAIAH 60:1–6; PSALM 72:1–7, 10–14

EPHESIANS 3:1–12; MATTHEW 2:1–12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and

your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. ISAIAH 60:1–6

PSALM

Refrain All nations shall serve him. ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; ²That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; ³That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. R ⁴He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. R ⁶He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. ⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. R ¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. ¹¹All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. ¹²For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. R ¹³He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. ¹⁴He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. R PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and

sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. EPHESIANS 3:1-12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard

the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his

mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. MATTHEW 2:1–12

ASH WEDNESDAY

JOEL 2:1–2, 12–17 OR ISAIAH 58:1–12; PSALM 103:8–18;
2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B—6:10; MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOEL

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the

nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” JOEL 2:1–2, 12–17

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

ISAIAH 58:1–12

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord remembers that we are but dust.** ⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. ⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. **R** ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. **R** ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. ¹³As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **R** ¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. ¹⁵Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. ¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's chil-

dren; ¹⁸On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. **R**
PSALM 103:8–18

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

^{20B}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B–6:10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, ¹⁴“Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you,

they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they

disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

ISAAIAH 42:1-9; PSALM 36:5-11;
HEBREWS 9:11-15; JOHN 12:1-11

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAAIAH

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes

that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ISAAIAH 42:1-9

PSALM

Refrain **Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens.** ⁵Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds. ⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save both man and beast, O Lord. **R** ⁷How priceless is your love, O God! your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. ⁸They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights. **R** ⁹For with you

is the well of life, and in your light we see light. ¹⁰Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, and your favour to those who are true of heart. ¹¹Let not the foot of the proud come near me, nor the hand of the wicked push me aside. *R Refrain* **Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens.** PSALM 36:5–11

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹¹When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), ¹²he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! ¹⁵For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

HEBREWS 9:11–15

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” ⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

JOHN 12:1–11

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

ISAIAH 49:1–7; PSALM 71:1–14;
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–31; JOHN 12:20–36

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you." ISAIAH 49:1–7

PSALM

Refrain **O Lord, make haste to help me.** ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed. ²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me. **R** ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold. ⁴De-

liver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. **R** ⁵For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young. ⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you. **R** ⁷I have become a portent to many; but you are my refuge and my strength. ⁸Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long. **R** ⁹Do not cast me off in my old age; forsake me not when my strength fails. ¹⁰For my enemies are talking against me, and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together. ¹¹They say, "God has forsaken him; go after him and seize him; because there is none who will save." **R** ¹²O God, be not far from me; come quickly to help me, O my God. ¹³Let those who set themselves against me be put to shame and be disgraced; let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and reproach. ¹⁴But I shall always wait in patience, and shall praise you more and more. **R** PSALM 71:1–14

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclama-

tion, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain

of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. JOHN 12:20-36

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

ISAIAH 50:4–9A; PSALM 70;
HEBREWS 12:1–3; JOHN 13:21–32

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? ISAIAH 50:4–9A

PSALM

Refrain O Lord, make haste to help me. ¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me. ²Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. R ³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed. ⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say for ever, “Great is the Lord!” R ⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God. ⁶You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. R PSALM 70

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. HEBREWS 12:1–3

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

²¹Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was

telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the

Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.” JOHN 13:21–32

MAUNDY THURSDAY

EXODUS 12:1–4 (5–10), 11–14; PSALM 116:1, 10–17;
1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26; JOHN 13:1–17, 31B–35

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

[⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.]

¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. EXODUS 12:1–4 (5–10), 11–14

PSALM

Refrain **I will lift up the cup of salvation.** ¹I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him. **R** ¹⁰How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me? ¹¹I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. **R** ¹²I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. ¹³Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants. **R** ¹⁴O Lord, I

am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. ¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord. **R** ¹⁶I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, ¹⁷In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah! **R Refrain I will lift up the cup of salvation.** PSALM 116:1, 10–17

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them

with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ^{31B}Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” JOHN 13:1–17, 31B–35

GOOD FRIDAY

ISAIAH 52:13—53:12; PSALM 22;
HEBREWS 10:16–25 OR HEBREWS 4:14–16, 5:7–9; JOHN 18:1—19:42

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. ¹Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the trans-

gression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

PSALM

Refrain My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress? ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest. R ³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel. ⁴Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. R ⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. ⁶But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people. R ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying, ⁸“He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, if he delights in him.” R ⁹Yet you are he who

took me out of the womb, and kept me safe upon my mother's breast. ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb. **R** ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. ¹²Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. ¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion. **R** ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. ¹⁵My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave. **R** ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones. ¹⁷They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing. **R** ¹⁸Be not far away, O Lord; you are my strength; hasten to help me. ¹⁹Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. ²⁰Save me from the lion's mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls. ²¹I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. **R** ²²Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. ²³For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them. **R** ²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. ²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!" **R** ²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. ²⁷For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. ²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. **R** ²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done. **R Refrain My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** PSALM 22

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. HEBREWS 10:16-25

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ¹⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud

cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. HEBREWS 4:14–16, 5:7–9

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” ¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it

was better to have one person die for the people. ¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. ²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over

to you.”³¹ Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.”³² (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him.”³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.³ They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face.⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.”⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.”⁷ The Jews answered him, “We

have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?”¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!”¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.”¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and di-

vided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfil what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then

the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." ³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. JOHN 18:1—19:42

HOLY SATURDAY

JOB 14:1–14 OR LAMENTATIONS 3:1–9, 19–24; PSALM 31:1–4, 15–16;
1 PETER 4:1–8; MATTHEW 27: 57–66 OR JOHN 19:38–42

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

¹“A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble, ²comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. ³Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgement with you? ⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can. ⁵Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, ⁶look away from them, and desist, that they may enjoy, like labourers, their days. ⁷For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. ¹⁰But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? ¹¹As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹²so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep. ¹³Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come.”

JOB 14:1–14

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

¹I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God’s wrath; ²he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³against me

alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long. ⁴He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; ⁵he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago. ⁷He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; ⁸though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ⁹he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked. ¹⁹The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! ²⁰My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:1–9, 19–24

PSALM

Refrain **My times are in your hand.** ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. ²Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. **R** ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me. ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. **R** ¹⁵“My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. ¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.” **R** PSALM 31:1–4, 15–16

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), ²so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. ³You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. ⁵But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does. ⁷The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. 1 PETER 4:1–8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the

tomb. ⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone. MATTHEW 27:57–66

Or

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. JOHN 19:38–42

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

GENESIS 1:1—2:4A; PSALM 136:1–9, 23–26; GENESIS 7:1–5, 11–18, 8:6–18, 9:8–13, PSALM 46;
GENESIS 22:1–18; PSALM 16; EXODUS 14:10–31, 15:20–21; CANTICLE 1 (EXODUS 15:1B–13, 17–18; ISAIAH 54:5–14;
PSALM 30; ISAIAH 55:1–11; CANTICLE 3 (ISAIAH 12:2–6); BARUCH 3:9–15, 32—4:4 OR PROVERBS 8:1–8, 19–21, 9:4B–6;
PSALM 19; EZEKIEL 36:24–28; PSALM 42 AND PSALM 43; EZEKIEL 37:1–14; PSALM 143; ZEPHANIAH 3:14–20; PSALM 98;
ROMANS 6:3–11; PSALM 114; MATTHEW 28:1–10

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for sea-

sons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷So God created hu-

mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. GENESIS 1:1–2:4A

PSALM

Refrain **For his mercy endures for ever.** ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. ² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for his mercy endures for ever. ⁴ Who only does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever; ⁵ Who by his wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever; ⁶ Who spread out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever; ⁷ Who created great lights, for his mercy endures for ever; ⁸ The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever; ⁹ The moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever. ²³ Who remembered us in our low estate, for his

mercy endures for ever; ²⁴ And delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever; ²⁵ Who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever. ²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever.

After each line sung by the cantor, the people sing the same music to the words “for his mercy endures for ever.”

PSALM 136:1–9, 23–26

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹ Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; ³ and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵ And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. ¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The

waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. ¹³In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. ⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to

destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

GENESIS 7:1–5, 11–18, 8:6–18, 9:8–13

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.** ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; ³Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. ⁴The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R** ⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. ⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. ⁸The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R** ⁹Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth. ¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. ¹¹“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” ¹²The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R** PSALM 46

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." ¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand

that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." GENESIS 22:1-18

PSALM

Refrain **Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you.** ¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other." ²All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people. R ³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. ⁴Their libations of blood I will not offer, nor take the names of their gods upon my lips. R ⁵O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. ⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage. R ⁷I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. ⁸I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. R ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. ¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. R ¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. R PSALM 16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be

afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” ¹⁵Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” ¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” ²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” ²⁷So Moses

stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. ²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.” EXODUS 14:10–31; 15:20–21

CANTICLE

Refrain **I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph.** I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph; the horse and the rider he has hurled into the sea. The Lord has become my strength and refuge; the Lord himself has become my saviour. **R** He is my God and I will praise him; my father’s God and I will exalt him. The Lord himself is a mighty warrior; the Lord, the Lord is his name. **R** Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power; your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods, holy, awesome, worker of wonders? **R** In steadfast love you led your people, you guided your redeemed with your great strength. You brought them in safety to your holy place, and planted them firm on your own mountain. You brought them into your own house. The Lord shall reign for ever and ever. **R** CANTICLE 1, *BAS* (EXODUS 15:1B–13, 17–18)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁵For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God. ⁷For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. ⁸In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. ⁹This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. ¹⁰For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you. ¹¹O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. ¹²I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your wall of precious stones. ¹³All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children. ¹⁴In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. ISAIAH 54:5-14

PSALM

Refrain **You have brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.** ¹I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me. ²O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. ³You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. R ⁴Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness. ⁵For his wrath endures but the twinkling

of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. ⁶Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning. R ⁷While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. You, Lord, with your favour, made me as strong as the mountains." ⁸Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear. R ⁹I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded with the Lord, saying, ¹⁰"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness? ¹¹Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper." R ¹²You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy. ¹³Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. R PSALM 30

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways

higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ISAIAH 55:1–11

CANTICLE

Refrain **You shall draw water with rejoicing.** Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. **R** And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **R** Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **R** CANTICLE 3, *BAS* (ISAIAH 12:2–6)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF BARUCH

⁹Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! ¹⁰Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, ¹¹that you are counted among those in Hades? ¹²You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. ¹³If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace forever. ¹⁴Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. ¹⁵Who has found her place? And who has en-

tered her storehouses? ³²But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; ³³the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; ³⁴the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, “Here we are!” They shone with gladness for him who made them. ³⁵This is our God; no other can be compared to him. ³⁶He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. ³⁷Afterward she appeared on earth and lived with humankind. ¹She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. ²Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. ³Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. ⁴Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God. BARUCH 3:9–15, 32—4:4

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

¹Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? ²On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: ⁴“To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. ⁵O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. ⁶Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; ⁷for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. ⁹My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. ²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, ²¹endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries. ^{4B}To those without sense she

says, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

PROVERBS 8:1–8, 19–21, 9:4B–6

PSALM

Refrain **The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart.** ¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. ²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. **R** ³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, ⁴Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world. **R** ⁵In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. ⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. **R** ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. **R** ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. **R** ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults. **R** ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R** PSALM 19

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

²⁴I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. EZEKIEL 36:24–28

PSALM

Refrain **As the deer longs for water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.** ¹As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. ²My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?” **R** ⁴I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, ⁵With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. ⁶Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? ⁷Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. **R** ⁸My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon. ⁹One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; all your rapids and floods have gone over me. **R** ¹⁰The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. ¹¹I will say to the God of

my strength, “Why have you forgotten me? and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?” ¹²While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face; ¹³All day long they mock me and say to me, “Where now is your God?” R ¹⁴Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? ¹⁵Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. R *Refrain As the deer longs for water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.* PSALM 42

PSALM

Refrain As the deer longs for water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. ¹Give judgement for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked. ²For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me? R ³Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling; ⁴That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God. R ⁵Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? ⁶Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. R PSALM 43

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you,

and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

EZEKIEL 37:1–14

PSALM

Refrain Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake. ¹Lord, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness. ²Enter not into judgement with your servant, for in your sight shall no one living be justified. R ³For my enemy has sought my life he has crushed me to the ground; he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead. ⁴My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate. R ⁵I remember the

time past; I muse upon all your deeds; I consider the works of your hands. ⁶I spread out my hands to you; my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land. **R** ⁷O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. ⁸Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you. **R** ⁹Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for I flee to you for refuge. ¹⁰Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; let your good Spirit lead me on level ground. **R** ¹¹Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble. ¹²Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, for truly I am your servant. **R Refrain Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake .** PSALM 143

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

ZEPHANIAH 3:14–20

PSALM

Refrain **Lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

¹Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. ²With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. **R** ³The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. ⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R** ⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. ⁶Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. **R** ⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord. ⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. **R** ⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth. ¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. **R**

PSALM 98

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves

dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
ROMANS 6:3–11

PSALM

Refrain Alleluia! ¹Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech, ²Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion. R ³The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back. ⁴The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep. R ⁵What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? ⁶You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep? R ⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, ⁸Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring. R PSALM 114

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (YEAR A)

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and

tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." MATTHEW 28:1–10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK (YEAR B)

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MARK 16:1–8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE (YEAR C)

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be

crucified, and on the third day rise again.”
8Then they remembered his words, 9and re-
turning from the tomb, they told all this to the
eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary
Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James,
and the other women with them who told this

to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to
them an idle tale, and they did not believe
them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb;
stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths
by themselves; then he went home, amazed at
what had happened. LUKE 24:1–12

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

ACTS 1:1–11; PSALM 47 OR PSALM 93;
EPHESIANS 1:15–23; LUKE 24:44–53

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

1In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about
all that Jesus did and taught from the begin-
ning 2until the day when he was taken up to
heaven, after giving instructions through the
Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had cho-
sen. 3After his suffering he presented himself
alive to them by many convincing proofs, appear-
ing to them during forty days and speaking
about the kingdom of God. 4While staying with
them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem,
but to wait there for the promise of the Father.
“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from
me; 5for John baptized with water, but you will
be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days
from now.” 6So when they had come together,
they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when
you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He
replied, “It is not for you to know the times or
periods that the Father has set by his own au-
thority. 8But you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be
my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9When
he had said this, as they were watching, he was
lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
10While he was going and they were gazing up
toward heaven, suddenly two men in white
robes stood by them. 11They said, “Men of
Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward

heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up
from you into heaven, will come in the same
way as you saw him go into heaven.”

ACTS 1:1–11

PSALM

Refrain **God has gone up with a shout.** 1Clap
your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with
a cry of joy. 2For the Lord Most High is to be
feared; he is the great king over all the earth. R
3He subdues the peoples under us, and the na-
tions under our feet. 4He chooses our inheri-
tance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
R 5God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with
the sound of the ram’s-horn. 6Sing praises to
God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing
praises. R 7For God is king of all the earth; sing
praises with all your skill. 8God reigns over the
nations; God sits upon his holy throne. R 9The
nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham. 10The
rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is
highly exalted. R PSALM 47

Or

PSALM

1The Lord is king; he has put on splendid ap-
parel; the Lord has put on his apparel and girded
himself with strength. 2He has made the whole
world so sure that it cannot be moved; 3Ever

since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting. ⁴The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves. ⁵Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high. ⁶Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever and for evermore. PSALM 93

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named,

not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. EPHESIANS 1:15–23

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

⁴⁴Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LUKE 24:44–53

EMBER DAYS

ISAIAH 44:1–8; PSALM 87;
1 PETER 2:4–10; JOHN 17:6–19

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! ²Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you: Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun

whom I have chosen. ³For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring. ⁴They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by

flowing streams. ⁵This one will say, "I am the Lord's," another will be called by the name of Jacob, yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's," and adopt the name of Israel. ⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. ISAAH 44:1-8

PSALM

Refrain **Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God.** ¹On the holy mountain stands the city he has founded; the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ²Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God. R ³I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me; behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia: in Zion were they born. ⁴O Zion it shall be said, "Everyone was born in her, and the Most High himself shall sustain her." R ⁵The Lord will record as he enrolls the peoples, "These also were born there." ⁶The singers and the dancers will say, "All my fresh springs are in you." R PSALM 87

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the

builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 PETER 2:4-10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the

world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have

sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. JOHN 17:6–19

HARVEST THANKSGIVING I

FOR ROGATION DAYS AND HARVEST THANKSGIVING
DEUTERONOMY 8:7–18; PSALM 65;
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–15; LUKE 17:11–19

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.”

¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors as he is doing today.

DEUTERONOMY 8:7–18

PSALM

Refrain You crown the year with your goodness, O Lord. ¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem. ²To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions. R ³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out. ⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. R ⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away. ⁶You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might. R ⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamour of the peoples. ⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvellous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. R ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. ¹⁰You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth. R ¹¹You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy

rain you soften the ground and bless its increase. ¹²You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. **R** ¹³May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. ¹⁴May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing. **R** PSALM 65

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many

thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–15

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.” LUKE 17:11–19

HARVEST THANKSGIVING II

FOR ROGATIONS DAYS AND HARVEST THANKSGIVING
JOEL 2:21–27; PSALM 126;
1 TIMOTHY 2:1–7; MATTHEW 6:25–33

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOEL

²¹Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! ²²Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the

fig tree and vine give their full yield. ²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as

before. ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. JOEL 2:21–27

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord has done great things for us.** ¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. R ³Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ⁴The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. R ⁵Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. R ⁶Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R

PSALM 126

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of

God our Saviour, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1–7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” MATTHEW 6:25–33

HARVEST THANKSGIVING III

FOR ROGATION DAYS AND HARVEST THANKSGIVING
DEUTERONOMY 26:1–11; PSALM 100;
PHILIPPIANS 4:4–9; JOHN 6:25–35

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate

with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

DEUTERONOMY 26:1–11

PSALM

Refrain **We are God’s people, the sheep of his pasture.** ¹Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. **R** ²Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **R** ³Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his name. **R** ⁴For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age. **R** PSALM 100

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4–9

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

²⁵When they found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said

to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” JOHN 6:25–35

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

11 JANUARY (OR 28 DECEMBER)
JEREMIAH 31:15–17 OR REVELATION 21:1–7;
PSALM 124; MATTHEW 2:13–18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

¹⁵Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. ¹⁶Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; ¹⁷there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country. JEREMIAH 31:15–17

Or

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the

holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. REVELATION 21:1–7

PSALM

Refrain **We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler.** ¹If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say; ²If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us; ³Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; **R** ⁴Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us; ⁵Then would the raging waters have gone right over us. **R** ⁶Blessed be the Lord! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. ⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. ⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. **R** PSALM 124

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

¹³Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and

said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

MATTHEW 2:13–18

THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER

18 JANUARY

ACTS 4:8–13 OR 1 PETER 5:1–4;

PSALM 23; MATTHEW 16:13–19

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

ACTS 4:8–13

Or

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

¹Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ²to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. 1 PETER 5:1–4

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.** ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. R ³He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R ⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my

head with oil, and my cup is running over. ⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. R PSALM 23

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” MATTHEW 16:13–19

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

25 JANUARY

ACTS 26:9–23 OR GALATIANS 1:11–24;

PSALM 67; MATTHEW 10:16–22

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Paul said, ⁹“Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to

death. ¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. ¹²With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than

the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The Lord answered, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ ¹⁹After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. ²¹For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²²To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: ²³that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” ACTS 26:9–23

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of

the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord’s brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

GALATIANS 1:11–24

PSALM

Refrain **Let all the peoples praise you, O God.** ¹May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us. ²Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **R** ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth. ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **R** ⁶The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing. ⁷May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him. **R** PSALM 67

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said to the disciples, ¹⁶“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who

speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” MATTHEW 10:16–22

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

2 FEBRUARY

MALACHI 3:1–4; PSALM 84 OR PSALM 24:7–10;
HEBREWS 2:14–18; LUKE 2:22–40

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MALACHI

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. MALACHI 3:1–4

PSALM

Refrain **Happy are the people whose strength is in you!** ¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. R

²The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ³Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you. ⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way. R ⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. ⁶They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. ⁷Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob. R ⁸Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed. ⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. R ¹⁰For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory; ¹¹No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity. ¹²O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you! R PSALM 84

Or

PSALM

Refrain **Let the King of glory enter** .⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.⁸“Who is this King of glory?” “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.” **R**⁹Lift up your heads, O gates lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.¹⁰“Who is he, this King of glory?” “The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.” **R**

PSALM 24:7–10

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. **HEBREWS 2:14–18**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair

of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

LUKE 2:22–40

SAINT JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

19 MARCH

2 SAMUEL 7:4, 8–16 OR ROMANS 4:13–18;
PSALM 89:1–4, 26–29; LUKE 2:41–52

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

⁴That same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. 2 SAMUEL 7:4, 8–16

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.”

ROMANS 4:13–18

PSALM

Refrain **I will establish his line forever.** ¹Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. ²For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. **R** ³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: ⁴I will establish your line

forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’ R ²⁶He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.’ ²⁷I will make him my firstborn and higher than the kings of the earth. R ²⁸I will keep my love for him for ever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. ²⁹I will establish his line for ever and his throne as the days of heaven.” R
Refrain **I will establish his line forever.**

PSALM 89:1–4, 26–29

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

⁴¹Now every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day’s journey. Then

they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

LUKE 2:41–52

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

25 MARCH

ISAIAH 7:10–14; PSALM 45 OR PSALM 40:5–11;
HEBREWS 10:4–10; LUKE 1:26–38

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.” ISAIAH 7:10–14

PSALM

¹My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer. ²You are the fairest of men; grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever. ³Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior, in your pride and in your majesty. ⁴Ride out and conquer in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. ⁵Your right hand will show you marvellous things; your arrows are very

sharp, O mighty warrior. ⁶The peoples are falling at your feet, and the king's enemies are losing heart. ⁷Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom; you love righteousness and hate iniquity. ⁸Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows. ⁹All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad. ¹⁰Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir. ¹¹"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; forget your people and your father's house. ¹²The king will have pleasure in your beauty; he is your master; therefore do him honour. ¹³The people of Tyre are here with a gift; the rich among the people seek your favour." ¹⁴All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth-of-gold. ¹⁵In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in procession. ¹⁶With joy and gladness they are brought, and enter into the palace of the king. ¹⁷"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; you shall make them princes over all the earth. ¹⁸ I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever." PSALM 45

Or

PSALM

Refrain **I love to do your will, O my God.**
⁵Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! how great your wonders and your plans for us! there is none who can be compared with you. ⁶Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! but they are more than I can count. **R** ⁷In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure (you have given me ears to hear you); ⁸Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, and so I said, "Behold, I come. **R** ⁹In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is

deep in my heart.'" ¹⁰I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know. **R** ¹¹Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

R PSALM 40:5-11

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HEBREWS 10:4-10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of

the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore

the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. LUKE 1:26–38

SAINT MARK

25 APRIL

ISAIAH 52:7–10 OR EPHESIANS 4:7–8, 11–16; PSALM 2:7–13;
MARK 1:1–15 OR MARK 16:15–20

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

ISAIAH 52:7–10

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

⁷Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.” ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints

for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:7–8, 11–16

PSALM

Refrain **You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.** ⁷Let me announce the decree of the Lord: he said to me, “You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. R ⁸Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession. ⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.” R ¹⁰And

now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. ¹¹Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow before him; ¹²Lest he be angry and you perish; for his wrath is quickly kindled. **R** Happy are they all who take refuge in him! PSALM 2:7–13

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness; ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are

my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

MARK 1:1–15

Or

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK**

¹⁵Jesus said to the disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; ¹⁸they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” ¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. MARK 16:15–20

SAINT PHILIP AND SAINT JAMES

1 MAY

ISAIAH 30:18–21 OR 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1–6;

PSALM 119:33–40; JOHN 14:6–14

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹⁸The Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. ¹⁹Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. ²⁰Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

ISAIAH 30:18–21

Or

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹Since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let

light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1–6

PSALM

Refrain **Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.** ³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart. **R** ³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire. ³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain. **R** ³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways. ³⁸Fulfil your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you. **R** ³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread, because your judgements are good. ⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life. **R** PSALM 119:33–40

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

⁶Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father

and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you,

the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”
JOHN 14:6–14

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

6 MAY (OR 27 DECEMBER)
GENESIS 1:1–5, 12–19 OR 1 JOHN 1:1–9;
PSALM 92:1–2, 11–14; JOHN 20:1–8

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; ¹⁵and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

¹⁹And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
GENESIS 1:1–5, 12–19

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in

us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 JOHN 1:1–9

PSALM

Refrain **The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree.** ¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to your name, O Most High; ²To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night season. R ¹¹The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. ¹²Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God; R ¹³They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent; ¹⁴That they may show how upright the Lord is, my rock, in whom there is no fault. R

PSALM 92:1–2, 11–14

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

JOHN 20:1–8

SAINT MATTHIAS

14 MAY

ACTS 1:15–26 OR PHILIPPIANS 3:13B–22;

PSALM 15; JOHN 15:1, 6–16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

¹⁹This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his res-

urrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. ACTS 1:15–26

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

^{13B}This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. ¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. PHILIPPIANS 3:13B–22

PSALM

Refrain **The just shall dwell on your holy mountain.** ¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? who may abide upon your holy hill? ²Whoever leads a blameless life and does what

is right, who speaks the truth from his heart. R ³There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour. ⁴In his sight the wicked is rejected, but he honours those who fear the Lord. R ⁵He has sworn to do no wrong and does not take back his word. ⁶He does not give his money in hope of gain, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. ⁷Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown. R PSALM 15

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ¹⁴“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. JOHN 15:1, 6–16

THE VISIT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH

31 MAY
1 SAMUEL 2:1–10; PSALM 113;
ROMANS 12:9–16B; LUKE 1:39–57

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ²There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world. ⁹He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.” 1 SAMUEL 2:1–10

PSALM

Refrain **Let the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore.** ¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord. ²Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth for evermore. R ³From the

rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised. ⁴The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. R ⁵Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth? ⁶He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes. R ⁷He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people. ⁸He makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. R PSALM 113

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. ROMANS 12:9–16B

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your

womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from gen-

eration to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. ⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. LUKE 1:39-57

SAINT BARNABAS

11 JUNE

ISAIAH 42:5-12 OR ACTS 11:19-30, 13:1-3;
PSALM 112; MATTHEW 10:7-16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. ¹¹Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhab-

itants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. ¹²Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands. ISAIAH 42:5-12

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹⁹Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. ²¹The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. ²²News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with

steadfast devotion; ²⁴for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.” ²⁷At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; ³⁰this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. ¹Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

ACTS 11:19–30, 13:1–3

PSALM

Refrain **Happy are they who have given to the poor.** ¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments! ²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last for ever. **R** ⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compas-

sion. ⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice. **R** ⁶For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumours; their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord. **R** ⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies. ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honour. **R** ¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. **R** PSALM 112

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said to the disciples, ⁷“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on their day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

MATTHEW 10:7–16

THE BIRTH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 JUNE

ISAIAH 40:1–11; PSALM 85:7–13;
ACTS 13:14B–26; LUKE 1:57–80

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. ISAIAH 40:1–11

PSALM

Refrain Show us your mercy. ⁷Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. ⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and

to those who turn their hearts to him. ⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R** ¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. ¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R** ¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

R PSALM 85:7–13

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

^{14B}On the sabbath day Paul and his company went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." ¹⁶So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: "You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance ²⁰for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. ²¹Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²²When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.'

²³Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; ²⁴before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.' ²⁶My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent."

ACTS 13:14B-26

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbours, and all

these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: ⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

LUKE 1:57-80

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

29 JUNE

EZEKIEL 34:11–16; PSALM 87;
2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8; JOHN 21:15–19

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. ¹³I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. EZEKIEL 34:11–16

PSALM

Refrain **Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God.** ¹On the holy mountain stands the city he has founded; the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ²Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God. R ³I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me; behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia: in Zion were they born. ⁴Of Zion it shall be said, “Everyone was born in her, and the Most High himself shall sustain her.” R ⁵The Lord will record as he enrolls the peo-

ples, “These also were born there.” ⁶The singers and the dancers will say, “All my fresh springs are in you.” R PSALM 87

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said

to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you,

when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."
JOHN 21:15-19

CANADA DAY

1 JULY

ISAIAH 32:1-5, 16-18; PSALM 85:7-13;
COLOSSIANS 3:12-17; JOHN 15:12-17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. ²Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. ³Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed, and the ears of those who have hearing will listen. ⁴The minds of the rash will have good judgement, and the tongues of stammerers will speak readily and distinctly. ⁵A fool will no longer be called noble, nor a villain said to be honourable. ¹⁶Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. ¹⁷The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. ¹⁸My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. ISAIAH 32:1-5, 16-18

PSALM

Refrain **Peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

⁷Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. ⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful

people and to those who turn their hearts to him. ⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. R ¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. ¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. R ¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. R PSALM 85:7-13

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ

dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 3:12–17

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

Jesus said, ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s

life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” JOHN 15:12–17

SAINT THOMAS

3 JULY

HABAKKUK 2:1–4 OR HEBREWS 10:35—11:1;
PSALM 126; JOHN 20:24–29

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

¹I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. ²Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. HABAKKUK 2:1–4

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

³⁵Do not abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. ³⁶For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. ³⁷For yet

“in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay; ³⁸but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.” ³⁹But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved. ¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. HEBREWS 10:35—11:1

PSALM

Refrain **Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.** ¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R** ³Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ⁴The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R** ⁵Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like the watercourses of the Negev. R ⁶Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R PSALM 126

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

²⁴Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in

his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” JOHN 20:24–29

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

22 JULY

JUDITH 9:1, 11–14 OR 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–18;
PSALM 42:1–7; JOHN 20:1–3, 11–18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JUDITH

¹Then Judith prostrated herself, put ashes on her head, and uncovered the sackcloth she was wearing. At the very time when the evening incense was being offered in the house of God in Jerusalem, Judith cried out to the Lord with a loud voice, and said, ¹¹“For your strength does not depend on numbers, nor your might on the powerful. But you are the God of the lowly, helper of the oppressed, upholder of the weak, protector of the forsaken, saviour of those without hope. ¹²Please, please, God of my father, God of the heritage of Israel, Lord of heaven and earth, Creator of the waters, King of all your creation, hear my prayer! ¹³Make my deceitful words bring wound and bruise on those who have planned cruel things against your covenant, and against your sacred house, and against Mount Zion, and against the house your

children possess. ¹⁴Let your whole nation and every tribe know and understand that you are God, the God of all power and might, and that there is no other who protects the people of Israel but you alone!” JUDITH 9:1, 11–14

Or

**A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO
THE CORINTHIANS**

¹⁴The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–18

PSALM

Refrain **My soul thirsts for you, O God, my God.** ¹As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. ²My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?” **R** ⁴I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, ⁵With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. **R** ⁶Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? ⁷Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. **R**
PSALM 42:1–7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus

loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her. JOHN 20:1–3, 11–18

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

25 JULY

JEREMIAH 45:1–5 OR ACTS 11:27—12:3;

PSALM 7:1–10; MATTHEW 20:20–28

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

¹The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: ²Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: ³You said, “Woe is me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.” ⁴Thus you shall say to him, “Thus says the Lord: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted—that is, the whole land. ⁵And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do you not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the Lord; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go.”

JEREMIAH 45:1–5

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

²⁷At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; ³⁰this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. ¹About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.)

ACTS 11:27—12:3

PSALM

Refrain **God is the saviour of the true in heart.** ¹O Lord my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me; ²Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces and snatch me away with none to deliver me. **R** ³O Lord my God, if I have done these things: if there is any wickedness in my hands, ⁴If I have repaid my friend with evil, or plundered him who without cause is my enemy; ⁵Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, trample my life into the ground, and lay my honour in the dust. **R** ⁶Stand up, O Lord, in your wrath; rise up against the fury of my enemies. ⁷Awake, O my God, decree justice; let the assembly of the peoples gather round you. ⁸Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; O Lord, judge the nations. **R** ⁹Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord, and according to my innocence, O Most High. ¹⁰Let the malice of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God. **R** PSALM 7:1–10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

²⁰The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. ²¹And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” ²²But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right

hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”²⁴When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers.²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.”²⁶It

will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant,²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” MATTHEW 20:20–28

SAINT STEPHEN

3 AUGUST (OR 26 DECEMBER)

JEREMIAH 26:1–9, 12–15 OR ACTS 6:8–7:2, 51c–60;

PSALM 31:1–7, 16; MATTHEW 23:34–39

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

¹At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord: ²Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. ³It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. ⁴You shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently—though you have not heeded—⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. ⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why

have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord. ¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.” JEREMIAH 26:1–9, 12–15

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians,

Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." ¹⁵And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. ¹⁶Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" ¹⁷And Stephen replied: ¹⁸"You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ¹⁹Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ²⁰You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it." ²¹When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ²²But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ²³"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ²⁴But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ²⁵Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ²⁶While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ²⁷Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. ACTS 6:8—7:2A, 51C-60

PSALM

Refrain **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.** ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. ²Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. R ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me. ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. R ⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth. ⁶I hate those who cling to worthless idols, and I put my trust in the Lord. R ⁷I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy; for you have seen my afflictions; you know my distress. ⁸Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me. R PSALM 31:1-7, 16

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, ³⁴"I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, ³⁵so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. ³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" MATTHEW 23:34-39

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

6 AUGUST

DANIEL 7:9–10, 13–14; PSALM 99;
2 PETER 1:16–19; LUKE 9:28–36

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel wrote, ⁹“As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.” DANIEL 7:9–10, 13–14

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord our God is the Holy One.**
¹The Lord is king; let the people tremble; he is enthroned upon the Cherubim; let the earth shake. ²The Lord is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples. ³Let them confess his name, which is great and awesome; he is the Holy One. R ⁴“O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.” ⁵Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; he is the Holy One. R ⁶Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his name, they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

⁷He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them. R ⁸“O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.” ⁹Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One. R PSALM 99

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 PETER 1:16–19

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

²⁸Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now

Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a

cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. LUKE 9:28–36

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

15 AUGUST

ISAIAH 7:10–15; PSALM 132:6–10, 13–14;
GALATIANS 4:4–7; LUKE 1:46–55 OR LUKE 2:1–7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

ISAIAH 7:10–15

PSALM

Refrain **Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.** “⁶The Ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; we found it in the fields of Jearim. ⁷Let us go to God’s dwelling place; let us fall upon our knees before his footstool.” R ⁸Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, you and the ark of your strength. ⁹Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; let your faithful people sing with joy. ¹⁰For your servant David’s sake, do not turn away the face

of your anointed. R ¹³“If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their children will sit upon your throne for evermore.” ¹⁴For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired her for his habitation.

R PSALM 132:6–10, 13–14

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. GALATIANS 4:4–7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

⁴⁶Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will

call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” LUKE 1:46–55

Or

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:1–7

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

24 AUGUST

DEUTERONOMY 18:15–18 OR 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9–15;
PSALM 91; LUKE 22:24–30

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Moses said, ¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: ‘If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.’ ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.’” DEUTERONOMY 18:15–18

Or

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE
CORINTHIANS**

⁹I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. ¹⁰We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, ¹²and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we

endure; ¹³when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day. ¹⁴I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9–15

PSALM

Refrain **He shall give his angels charge over you.** ¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty. ²He shall say to the Lord, “You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.” R ³He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge under his wings; his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler. R ⁵You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day; ⁶Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day. R ⁷A thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. ⁸Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked. R ⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. ¹⁰There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. R ¹¹For he shall give

his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹²They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. R ¹³You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet. ¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. R ¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honour. ¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation. R PSALM 91

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

²⁴A dispute arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

LUKE 22:24–30

THE BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

29 AUGUST

2 CHRONICLES 24:17–21 OR HEBREWS 11:32–40;
PSALM 71:1–6, 15–17; MARK 6:17–29

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES

¹⁷Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. ¹⁸They abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord; they testified against them, but they would not listen. ²⁰Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, “Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.” ²¹But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord.

2 CHRONICLES 24:17–21

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

³²What more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. ³⁶Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flog-

ging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. HEBREWS 11:32–40

PSALM

Refrain **My tongue will proclaim your righteousness.** ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed. ²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me. **R** ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold. ⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. **R** ⁵For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young. ⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you. **R** ¹⁵My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds all day long; though I cannot know the number of them. **R** ¹⁶I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord God; I will recall your righteousness, yours alone. ¹⁷O God, you have taught me since I was young, and to this day I tell of your wonderful works. **R** PSALM 71:1–6, 15–17

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

¹⁷Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests;

and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

MARK 6:17-29

HOLY CROSS DAY

14 SEPTEMBER

NUMBERS 21:4B-9; PSALM 98:1-6;
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24; JOHN 3:13-17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

^{4B}The people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall

look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.
NUMBERS 21:4B-9

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord has made known his victory.** ¹Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. ²With his right hand and his holy arm he has won for himself the victory. **R** ³The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. ⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. R ⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. ⁶Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. R *Refrain* **The Lord has made known his victory.** PSALM 98:1–6

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews de-

mand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–24

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ¹³“No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” JOHN 3:13–17

SAINT MATTHEW

21 SEPTEMBER

PROVERBS 3:1–6 OR 2 TIMOTHY 3:14–17;
PSALM 119:33–40; MATTHEW 9:9–13

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

¹My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; ²for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. ³Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favour and good repute in the sight of God and of people. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:1–6

Or

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

¹⁴As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:14–17

PSALM

Refrain Instruct me in your statutes, O Lord.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart. R ³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire. ³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain. R ³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways. ³⁸Fulfil your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you. R ³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread, because your judgments are good. ⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life. R PSALM 119:33–40

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” ¹⁰And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” MATTHEW 9:9–13

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

29 SEPTEMBER

GENESIS 28:10–17; PSALM 103:19–22;
REVELATION 12:7–12; JOHN 1:47–51

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed

in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” GENESIS 28:10–17

PSALM

Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul. ¹⁹The Lord has set his throne in heaven, and his kingdom has dominion over all. ²⁰Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word. R

²¹Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will. ²²Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul. **R Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul.** PSALM 103:19–22

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

⁷War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not

cling to life even in the face of death. ¹²Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

REVELATION 12:7–12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” JOHN 1:47–51

SAINT LUKE

18 OCTOBER

SIRACH 38:1–4, 6–10, 12–14 OR 2 TIMOTHY 4:5–13;

PSALM 147:1–7; LUKE 4:14–21

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

¹Honour physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; ²for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. ³The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. ⁴The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. ⁶And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works. ⁷By them the physician heals and takes away pain; ⁸the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. ⁹My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. ¹⁰Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. ¹²Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. ¹³There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, ¹⁴for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life. SIRACH 38:1–4, 6–10, 12–14

Or

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me

the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ⁹Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 2 TIMOTHY 4:5–13

PSALM

Refrain **Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.** ¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! how pleasant it is to honour him with praise! ²The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. R ³He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. R ⁵Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to his wisdom. ⁶The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground. ⁷Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp. R PSALM 147:1–7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth,

where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release

to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” LUKE 4:14–21

SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE

28 OCTOBER

DEUTERONOMY 32:1–4 OR EPHESIANS 2:13–22;
PSALM 119:89–96; JOHN 15:17–27

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

¹Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; let the earth hear the words of my mouth. ²May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. ³For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God, without deceit, just and upright is he. DEUTERONOMY 32:1–4

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹³Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace

to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. EPHESIANS 2:13–22

PSALM

Refrain O Lord, your word is everlasting. ⁸⁹O Lord, your word is everlasting; it stands firm in the heavens. ⁹⁰Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; you established the earth, and it abides. R ⁹¹By your decree these continue to this day, for all things are your servants. ⁹²If my delight had not been in your law, I should have perished in my affliction. R ⁹³I will never forget your commandments, because by them you give me life. ⁹⁴I am yours; oh, that you would save me! for I study your commandments. R ⁹⁵Though the wicked lie in wait for

me to destroy me, I will apply my mind to your decrees. ⁹⁶I see that all things come to an end, but your commandment has no bounds. R
Refrain **O Lord, your word is everlasting.**
PSALM 119:89–96

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

Jesus said, ¹⁷“I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. ¹⁸If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if

they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’ ²⁶When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.” JOHN 15:17–27

ALL SAINTS (YEAR A)

1 NOVEMBER
REVELATION 7:9–17; PSALM 34:1–10, 22;
1 JOHN 3:1–3; MATTHEW 5:1–12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for-

ever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to

springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

REVELATION 7:9–17

PSALM

Refrain **Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him.** ¹I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth. ²I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice. R ³Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt his name together. ⁴I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me out of all my terror. R ⁵Look upon him and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed. ⁶I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles. R ⁷The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, and he will deliver them. ⁸Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him! R ⁹Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. ¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. ²²The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, and none will be punished who trust in him. R PSALM 34:1–10, 22

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not

know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 JOHN 3:1–3

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” MATTHEW 5:1–12

ALL SAINTS (YEAR B)

1 NOVEMBER

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 3:1–9 OR ISAIAH 25:6–9; PSALM 24;
REVELATION 21:1–6A; JOHN 11:32–44

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

¹The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ²In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, ³and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; ⁶like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. ⁷In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. ⁸They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. ⁹Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. WISDOM OF SOLOMON 3:1–9

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord

has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. ISAIAH 25:6–9

PSALM

Refrain Lift up your heads, O gates; and the King of glory shall come in. ¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. ²For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. R ³"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?" ⁴"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud. R ⁵They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation." ⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. R ⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ⁸"Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle." R ⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ¹⁰"Who is he, this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." R PSALM 24

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out

of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." REVELATION 21:1-6A

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply

moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." JOHN 11:32-44

ALL SAINTS (YEAR C)

1 NOVEMBER

DANIEL 7:1-3, 15-18; PSALM 149

EPHESIANS 1:11-23; LUKE 6:20-31

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL

¹In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions

of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷"As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

DANIEL 7:1-3, 15-18

PSALM

Refrain Sing to the Lord a new song. ¹Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful. ²Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. R ³Let them praise his Name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp. ⁴For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory. ⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds. R ⁶Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand; ⁷To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples; R ⁸To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron; ⁹To inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah! R PSALM 149

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and

what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come, ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

EPHESIANS 1:11–23

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

²⁰Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. ²²Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you." LUKE 6:20–31

ALL SOULS

2 NOVEMBER

WISDOM 3:1–9; PSALM 116:1–8;

1 PETER 1:3–9; JOHN 6:37–40 OR JOHN 11:21–27

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

¹The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ²In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, ³and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; ⁶like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. ⁷In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. ⁸They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. ⁹Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. WISDOM OF SOLOMON 3:1–9

PSALM

Refrain Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants. ¹I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him. R ²The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow. ³Then I called upon the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.” R ⁴Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. ⁵The Lord watches over the innocent; I was brought very low, and he helped me. R ⁶Turn

again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has treated you well. ⁷For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. R ⁸I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. R

PSALM 116:1–8

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 PETER 1:3–9

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ³⁷“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose noth-

ing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.” JOHN 6:37–40

Or

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But

even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” JOHN 11:21–27

SAINT ANDREW

30 NOVEMBER

DEUTERONOMY 30:11–14 OR ROMANS 10:8B–18;
PSALM 19:1–6; MATTHEW 4:18–22

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Moses said, ¹¹“Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.”

DEUTERONOMY 30:11–14

Or

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

^{8B}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so

is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? ¹⁵And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. ¹⁸But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” ROMANS 10:8B–18

PSALM

Refrain Their message has gone out to the ends of the world. ¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. ²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. R ³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, ⁴Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world. R ⁵In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. ⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R PSALM 19:1–6

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

¹⁸As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. MATTHEW 4:18–22

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