

Sundays in Year B

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 64:1–9; PSALM 80:1–7, 16–18;
1 CORINTHIANS 1:3–9; MARK 13:24–37

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

ISAIAH 64:1–9

PSALM

Refrain Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and

Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R** ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **R** ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R** ¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. ¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R** PSALM 80:1–7, 16–18

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3–9

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus said, ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” MARK 13:24-37

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 40:1-11; PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 PETER 3:8-15A; MARK 1:1-8

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.” ⁶A 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, O Lord.** ¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. ²You

have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. R 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 *Refrain Show us your mercy, O Lord.* PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze

and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. 2 PETER 3:8-15A

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."

MARK 1:1-8

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 61:1–4, 8–11; PSALM 126 OR CANTICLE 18 (LUKE 1:47–55);

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–24; JOHN 1:6–8, 19–28

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. ⁴They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ISAIAH 61:1–4, 8–11

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

Or

CANTICLE

Refrain **My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **R** He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **R** He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

CANTICLE 18, BAS (LUKE 1:47–55)

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–24

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

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. ¹⁹This is the testimony given

by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. JOHN 1:6–8, 19–28

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 SAMUEL 7:1–11, 16; CANTICLE 18 (LUKE 1:47–55) OR PSALM 89:1–4, 19–26;
ROMANS 16:25–27; LUKE 1:26–38

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel

from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. 2 SAMUEL 7:1–11, 16

CANTICLE

Refrain **My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. R He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. R He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. R He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. R Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. CANTICLE 18, BAS (LUKE 1:47–55)

Or

PSALM

Refrain **I will keep my love for him for ever.** 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: ⁴“I will establish your line for ever, and preserve your throne for all generations.” R ¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: “I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people. ²⁰I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him. R ²¹My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong. ²²No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down. R ²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my name. R ²⁵I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River. ²⁶He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.’” R PSALM 89:1–4, 19–26

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. ROMANS 16:25–27

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 61:10—62:3; PSALM 148;
GALATIANS 4:4–7; LUKE 2:22–40

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ¹For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

ISAIAH 61:10—62:3

PSALM

Refrain Hallelujah! ¹Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. ²Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. ³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. R ⁴Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. ⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. ⁶He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. R ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; ⁸Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; R ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; ¹²Young men and maidens, old and young together. ¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. R ¹⁴He has raised up

strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. R PSALM 148

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus’ parents brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(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 opposed ³⁵so 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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JEREMIAH 31:7–14 OR SIRACH 24:1–12; PSALM 147:13–21 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 10:15–21 OR CANTICLE 11 (BAS);
EPHESIANS 1:3–14; JOHN 1:(1–9) 10–18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

⁷For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. JEREMIAH 31:7–14

Or (with Canticle 11)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

¹Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. ²In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. ⁶Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. ⁷Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? ⁸Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.’ ⁹Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹²I took root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.”

SIRACH 24:1–12

PSALM

Refrain Praise God, O Zion. ¹³Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion; ¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. **R** ¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; he

satisfies you with the finest wheat. ¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly. **R** ¹⁷He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. ¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold? **R** ¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. ²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgements to Israel. ²¹He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgements. Hallelujah! **R**

Refrain **Praise God, O Zion.** PSALM 147:13–21

Or (with the reading from Sirach)

CANTICLE

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors a holy people and blameless race. She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, withstood dread kings with wonders and signs. To the saints she gave the reward of their labours, and led them by a marvellous way; she was their shelter by day and their starlight through the night. She brought them across the Red Sea, led them through mighty waters, but their enemies she swallowed in the waves and spat them out from the depths of the abyss. Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your name, and praised with one voice your protecting hand, for Wisdom opened the mouths of the dumb, and gave speech to the tongues of babes.

CANTICLE 11, *BAS* (WISDOM OF SOLOMON 10:15–21)

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have

redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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. EPHESIANS 1:3–14

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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me

because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. JOHN 1:(1-9) 10-18

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

2 KINGS 2:1-12; PSALM 50:1-6;
2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6; MARK 9:2-9

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

¹When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to

the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 KINGS 2:1-12

PSALM

Refrain God reveals himself in glory. ¹The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. ²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. **R** ³Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. ⁴He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgement of his people. **R** ⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who

have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”⁶Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge. **R Refrain**
God reveals himself in glory. PSALM 50:1–6

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

³Even 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 4:3–6

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high

mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. MARK 9:2–9

The readings for the Sundays after the Epiphany may be found with other ferial readings, in numerical order, beginning on page 163.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 9:8–17; PSALM 25:1–9;
1 PETER 3:18–22; MARK 1:9–15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

⁸God 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. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is

on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

GENESIS 9:8–17

PSALM

Refrain **The paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant.**

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ²Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

R ³Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. ⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. **R** ⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. ⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **R** ⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. ⁸He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. ⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **R**

PSALM 25:1–9

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh,

but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. 1 PETER 3:18–22

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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 1:9–15

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 17:1–7, 15–16; PSALM 22:22–30;
ROMANS 4:13–25; MARK 8:31–38 OR MARK 9:2–9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

GENESIS 17:1–7, 15–16

PSALM

Refrain **All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.** 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!” ²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. **R** 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** PSALM 22:22–30

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.”¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone,²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.
ROMANS 4:13–25

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

³¹Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.³⁵For those who want to save their life will

lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” MARK 8:31–38

Or

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

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. MARK 9:2–9

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

EXODUS 20:1–17; PSALM 19;
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–25; JOHN 2:13–22

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. EXODUS 20:1–17

PSALM

Refrain **The words of the Lord are spirit and life.** 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 offense. 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 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 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 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.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–25

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. JOHN 2:13–22

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

NUMBERS 21:4–9; PSALM 107:1–3, 17–22;
EPHESIANS 2:1–10; JOHN 3:14–21

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but 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.”⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

NUMBERS 21:4–9

PSALM

Refrain Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. ¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever. ²Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe. ³He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **R** ¹⁷Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins. ¹⁸They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death’s door. ¹⁹Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. **R** ²⁰He sent forth his word and healed them and saved them from the grave. ²¹Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children. ²²Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy. **R** PSALM 107:1–3, 17–22

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us

⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. EPHESIANS 2:1–10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ¹⁴“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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.” JOHN 3:14–21

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JEREMIAH 31:31–34; PSALM 51:1–13 OR PSALM 119:9–16;
HEBREWS 5:5–10; JOHN 12:20–33

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

JEREMIAH 31:31–34

PSALM

Refrain Create in me a clean heart, O God.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. **R** ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. **R** ⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. ⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother’s womb. **R** ⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. ⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. **R** ⁹Make me hear of joy and

gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. ¹⁰Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. **R** ¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹²Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me. ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. **R** PSALM 51:1–13

Or

PSALM

⁹How shall a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your words. ¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments. ¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you. ¹²Blessed are you, O Lord; instruct me in your statutes. ¹³With my lips will I recite all the judgements of your mouth. ¹⁴I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways. ¹⁶My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

PSALM 119:9–16

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In 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, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. HEBREWS 5:5–10

**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. JOHN 12:20–33

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION /PALM SUNDAY

LITURGY OF THE PALMS MARK 11:1–11 OR JOHN 12:12–16; PSALM 118:1–2, 19–29
LITURGY OF THE PASSION ISAIAH 50:4–9A; PSALM 31:9–16; PHILIPPIANS 2:5–11; MARK 14:1–15:47
OR MARK 15:1–39 (40–47) (SHORT VERSION)

Liturgy of the Palms

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

¹When the disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a

colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple;

and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. MARK 11:1–11

Or

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

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. JOHN 12:12–16

PSALM

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. ²Let Israel now proclaim, “His mercy endures for ever.” ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. ²⁰“This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.” ²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! Lord, send us now success. ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord. ²⁷God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸“You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.” ²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

PSALM 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

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 wakens—wakens 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 **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.** ⁹Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly. ¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. **R** ¹¹I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me. ¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. **R** ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life. ¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God. **R** ¹⁵My 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 31:9–16

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 MARK

¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.” ³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in

remembrance of her.” ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. ¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places, and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” ²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all

become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.”³⁰Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”³¹But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.³⁴And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.³⁶He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?”³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.⁴⁶Then they laid

hands on him and arrested him.⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled.⁵¹A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him,⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.⁵⁴Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.⁵⁷Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony did not agree.⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”⁶¹But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”⁶²Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”⁶³Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses?⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death.⁶⁵Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.⁶⁶While Peter was below in

the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

[¹As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. ⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you

call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”]

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in

Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

MARK 14:1—15:47

EASTER DURING THE DAY

ACTS 10:34–43 OR ISAIAH 25:6–9; PSALM 118:1–2, 14–24;
1 CORINTHIANS 15:1–11 OR ACTS 10:34–43; JOHN 20:1–18 OR MARK 16:1–8

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹We are witnesses to all

that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

ACTS 10:34–43

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. ISAAH 25:6–9

PSALM

Refrain **On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad.** ¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. ²Let Israel now proclaim, “His mercy endures for ever.” R ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. ¹⁵There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: ¹⁶“The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!” R ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. ¹⁸The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death. R ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. ²⁰“This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.” R ²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. R ²³This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. R PSALM 118:1–2, 14–24

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1–11

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all

that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

ACTS 10:34–43

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; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. 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 20:1–18

Or

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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

EASTER IN THE EVENING

ISAIAH 25:6-9; PSALM 114; 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6B-8; LUKE 24:13-49

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 Alleluia! ¹When 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

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

^{6B}Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you

really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6B-8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women

had said; but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood

among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” LUKE 24:13–49

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:32–35; PSALM 133;
1 JOHN 1:1—2:2; JOHN 20:19–31

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ACTS 4:32–35

PSALM

Refrain **How good it is for all to live together in unity.** ¹Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity! ²It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, ³Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe. R ⁴It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion. ⁵For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore. R PSALM 133

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. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 JOHN 1:1—2:2

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven

them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here

and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.
JOHN 20:19–31

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 3:12–19; PSALM 4;
1 JOHN 3:1–7; LUKE 24:36B–48

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹²Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his

Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”
ACTS 3:12–19

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord does wonders for the faithful.** ¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ²“You mortals, how long will you dishonour my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?” **R** ³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. ⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. **R** ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord. ⁶Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord. **R** ⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and

wine and oil increase. ⁸I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R Refrain The Lord does wonders for the faithful.** PSALM 4

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. ⁴Everyone who commits sins is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 1 JOHN 3:1-7

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

³⁶Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 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."

LUKE 24:36B-48

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:5–12; PSALM 23;
1 JOHN 3:16–24; JOHN 10:11–18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

⁵The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 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.” ACTS 4:5–12

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

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. 1 JOHN 3:16–24

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”
JOHN 10:11–18

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 8:26–40; PSALM 22:24–30;
1 JOHN 4:7–21; JOHN 15:1–8

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he

proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. ACTS 8:26–40

PSALM

Refrain **All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.** 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!” ²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. **R** 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 **All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.** PSALM 22:24-30

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so

are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. 1 JOHN 4:7-21

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 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. JOHN 15:1-8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 10:44–48; PSALM 98;
1 JOHN 5:1–6; JOHN 15:9–17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. ACTS 10:44–48

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord has made known his salvation.** 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 FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. 1 JOHN 5:1–6

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ⁹“As 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.

¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” JOHN 15:9–17

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 1:15–17, 21–26; PSALM 1
1 JOHN 5:9–13; JOHN 17:6–19

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. 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 resurrection.” 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 1:15–17, 21–26

PSALM

Refrain **Happy are they who trust in the Lord.** ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful! ²Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and night. **R** ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. ⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. **R** ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R** PSALM 1

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 JOHN 5:9–13

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ⁶“Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the

world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 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, just as I 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

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1–21 OR EZEKIEL 37:1–14; PSALM 104:25–35, 37B;
ROMANS 8:22–27 OR ACTS 2:1–21; JOHN 15:26–27, 16:4B–15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native

language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷In the last days it

will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

ACTS 2:1-21

Or

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, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

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 prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 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 **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.** ²⁵O Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁶Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great. **R** ²⁷There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it. ²⁸All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. ²⁹You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things. **R** ³⁰You hide your face, and they are terrified; you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust. ³¹You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth. **R** ³²May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works. ³³He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. **R** ³⁴I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. ³⁵May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord. ³⁷**B** Hallelujah! **R** PSALM 104:25-35, 37B

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ROMANS 8:22–27

Or

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’” ACTS 2:1–21

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said to the disciples, ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴⁸I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away,

the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹²I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”
JOHN 15:26–27, 16:4B–15

TRINITY SUNDAY

ISAIAH 6:1–8; PSALM 29;
ROMANS 8:12–17; JOHN 3:1–17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” ISAIAH 6:1–8

PSALM

Refrain Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ¹Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. R ³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. R ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; ⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. R ⁷The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁸The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. ⁹And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!” R ¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. ¹¹The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. R PSALM 29

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

ROMANS 8:12–17

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a

second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No 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 3:1–17

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

PROPER 1

GENESIS 1:1–5; PSALM 29;
ACTS 19:1–7; MARK 1:4–11

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. GENESIS 1:1–5

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.** ¹Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. R ³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. R ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; ⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. R ⁷The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁸The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. ⁹And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!” R ¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. ¹¹The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. R PSALM 29

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them. ACTS 19:1–7

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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.”
MARK 1:4–11

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PROPER 2

1 SAMUEL 3:1–10 (11–20); PSALM 139:1–5, 12–17;
1 CORINTHIANS 6:12–20; JOHN 1:43–51

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

[¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make

both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.” ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

1 SAMUEL 3:1–10 (11–20)

PSALM

Refrain Your works are wonderful, O Lord.

¹Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ²You

trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.³ Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. R⁴ You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. ⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. R¹² For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹³I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. R¹⁴ My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁵Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. R¹⁶ How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! ¹⁷If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. R *Refrain* **Your works are wonderful, O Lord.** PSALM 139:1–5, 12–17

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a

prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.”¹⁷ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12–20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 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 1:43–51

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PROPER 3

JONAH 3:1–5, 10; PSALM 62:6–14;
1 CORINTHIANS 7:29–31; MARK 1:14–20

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JONAH

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. JONAH 3:1–5, 10

PSALM

Refrain **Take refuge in God, all you people.**
⁶For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him. ⁷He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. R ⁸In God is my safety and my honour; God is my strong rock and my refuge. ⁹Put your trust in him always, O people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. R ¹⁰Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted. ¹¹On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together. R ¹²Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it. R ¹³God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God. ¹⁴Steadfast love

is yours, O Lord, for you repay everyone according to his deeds. R PSALM 62:6–14

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29–31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. MARK 1:14–20

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PROPER 4

DEUTERONOMY 18:15–20; PSALM 111;
1 CORINTHIANS 8:1–13; MARK 1:21–28

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

¹⁵The 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. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.” DEUTERONOMY 18:15–20

PSALM

Refrain **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.** ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. ²Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them. R ³His work is full of majesty and splendour, and his righteousness endures for ever. ⁴He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. R ⁵He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. ⁶He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations. R ⁷The works of his hands are

faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure. ⁸They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. R ⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name. ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever. R PSALM 111

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling

block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1–13

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

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and

taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

MARK 1:21–28

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PROPER 5

ISAIAH 40:21–31; PSALM 147:1–12, 21c;
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16–23; MARK 1:29–39

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who

brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. ISAIAH 40:21–31

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** ⁸He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; ⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind. **R** ¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. ¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse, he has no pleasure in the strength of a man. ¹²But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favour. ^{21C}Hallelujah! **R**

PSALM 147:1–12, 21C

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one

under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16–23

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. MARK 1:29–39

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY OR SUNDAY BETWEEN 8 MAY AND 14 MAY

PROPER 6

2 KINGS 5:1–14; PSALM 30;
1 CORINTHIANS 9:24–27; MARK 1:40–45

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you

shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. 2 KINGS 5:1–14

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 *Refrain* **You have brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.** PSALM 30

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

²⁴Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷but I

punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24–27

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

⁴⁰A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!” ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, ⁴⁴saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter. MARK 1:40–45

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY OR SUNDAY BETWEEN 15 MAY AND 21 MAY

PROPER 7

ISAIAH 43:18–25; PSALM 41;
2 CORINTHIANS 1:18–22; MARK 2:1–12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might

declare my praise. ²²Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! ²³You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honoured me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. ²⁴You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities.

²⁵I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. ISAIAH 43:18–25

PSALM

Refrain **Heal me, for I have sinned against you.** ¹Happy are they who consider the poor and needy! the Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble. ²The Lord preserves them and keeps them alive, so that they may be happy in the land; he does not hand them over to the will of their enemies. R ³The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and ministers to them in their illness. ⁴I said, “Lord, be merciful to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you.” R ⁵My enemies are saying wicked things about me: “When will he die, and his name perish?” ⁶Even if they come to see me, they speak empty words; their heart collects false rumours; they go outside and spread them. R ⁷All my enemies whisper together about me and devise evil against me. ⁸“A deadly thing,” they say, “has fastened on him; he has taken to his bed and will never get up again.” R ⁹Even my best friend, whom I trusted, who broke bread with me, has lifted up his heel and turned against me. ¹⁰But you, O Lord, be merciful to me and raise me up, and I shall repay them. R ¹¹By this I know you are pleased with me, that my enemy does not triumph over me. ¹²In my integrity you hold me fast, and shall set me before your face for ever. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from age to age. Amen. Amen. R PSALM 41

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been “Yes and No.” ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not “Yes and No”; but in him it is always “Yes.” ²⁰For in

him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. ²¹But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, ²²by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:18–22

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

¹When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the paralytic—¹¹“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” MARK 2:1–12

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY OR SUNDAY BETWEEN 22 MAY AND 28 MAY

PROPER 8

HOSEA 2:14–20; PSALM 103:1–13, 22;
2 CORINTHIANS 3:1–6; MARK 2:13–22

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA

¹⁴Therefore, I will now allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵From there I will give her her vineyards, and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁶On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, “My husband,” and no longer will you call me, “My Baal.” ¹⁷For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more. ¹⁸I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. ²⁰I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord. HOSEA 2:14–20

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.** ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **R** ³He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities; ⁴He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; ⁵He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s. **R** ⁶The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made

his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel. **R** 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** ²²Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul. **R** PSALM 103:1–13, 22

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; ³and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, ⁶who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1–6

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

¹³Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁵And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” ¹⁸Now

John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. ²¹No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

MARK 2:13–22

SUNDAY BETWEEN 29 MAY AND 4 JUNE

PROPER 9

DEUTERONOMY 5:12–15; PSALM 81:1–10;
1 SAMUEL 3:1–10 (11–20); PSALM 139:1–5, 12–17;
2 CORINTHIANS 4:5–12; MARK 2:23–3:6

Note: When the last Sunday after the Epiphany is kept as the Transfiguration, the following First Reading and Psalm are not used on the Ninth Sunday after the Epiphany.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you

out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

DEUTERONOMY 5:12–15

PSALM

Refrain Sing with joy to God our strength.

¹Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob. ²Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the merry harp, and the lyre. ³Blow the ram’s-horn at the new moon, and at the full moon, the day of our feast. **R** ⁴For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob. ⁵He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, when he came out of the land of Egypt.

R ⁶I heard an unfamiliar voice saying “I eased his shoulder from the burden; his hands were set free from bearing the load.” ⁷You called on me in trouble, and I saved you; I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah. R ⁸Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: O Israel, if you would but listen to me! ⁹There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god. ¹⁰I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” R **Refrain Sing with joy to God our strength.** PSALM 81:1–10

Or

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

[¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.” ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

1 SAMUEL 3:1–10 (11–20)

PSALM

¹Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ²You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. ³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. ⁴You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. ⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. ¹²For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹³I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. ¹⁴My body was not hidden from you, while I was being

made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁵Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁶How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! ¹⁷If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. PSALM 139:1–5, 12–17

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

⁵We 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. ⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5–12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²³One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." ²⁷Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." ¹Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." ⁴Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

MARK 2:23—3:6

SUNDAY BETWEEN 5 JUNE AND 11 JUNE

PROPER 10

1 SAMUEL 8:4–11 (12–15), 16–20 (11:14–15); PSALM 138;
2 CORINTHIANS 4:13—5:1; MARK 3:20–35

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the Lord, ⁷and the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” ¹⁰So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots.

[¹²and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.]

¹⁶He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.” ¹⁹But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

[¹⁴Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” ¹⁵So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the Lord, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.]

1 SAMUEL 8:4–11 (12–15), 16–20 (11:14–15)

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord will make good his purpose for me.** ¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. ²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; R ³For you have glorified your name and your word above all things. ⁴When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. R ⁵All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁶They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. R ⁷Though the Lord be high, he

cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar. ⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. ⁹The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands. **R Refrain The Lord will make good his purpose for me.** PSALM 138

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. ¹⁹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13—5:1

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁰The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain Jesus, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." MARK 3:20–35

SUNDAY BETWEEN 12 JUNE AND 18 JUNE

PROPER 11

1 SAMUEL 15:34—16:13; PSALM 20;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6–10 (11–13), 14–17; MARK 4:26–34

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. ¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven

of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. 1 SAMUEL 15:34—16:13

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord gives victory to his anointed.** ¹May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble, the Name of the God of Jacob defend you; ²Send you help from his holy place and strengthen you out of Zion; **R** ³Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice; ⁴Grant you your heart’s desire and prosper all your plans. **R** ⁵We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the name of our God; may the Lord grant all your requests. **R** ⁶Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed; he will answer him out of his holy heaven, with the victorious strength of his right hand. ⁷Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. **R** ⁸They collapse and fall down, but we will arise and stand upright. ⁹O Lord, give victory to the king and answer us when we call. **R** PSALM 20

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

⁶We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.]

¹⁴For the 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!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6–10 (11–13), 14–17

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁶Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. MARK 4:26–34

SUNDAY BETWEEN 19 JUNE AND 25 JUNE

PROPER 12

1 SAMUEL 17:(1A, 4–11, 19–23) 32–49; PSALM 9:9–20 OR

1 SAMUEL 17:57—18:5, 10–16; PSALM 133;

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1–13; MARK 4:35–41

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

[¹Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. ⁴And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. ¹⁹Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²²David left the things in charge of the

keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. ²³As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.]

³²David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!" ³⁸Saul clothed David with his armour; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹David strapped Saul's sword over the armour, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag,

in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. ⁴¹The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴²When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” ⁴⁵But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.” ⁴⁸When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

1 SAMUEL 17:(1A, 4–11, 19–23) 32–49

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord is a refuge in time of trouble.** ⁹The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble. ¹⁰Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord. ¹¹Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion; proclaim to the peoples the things he has done. ¹²The avenger of blood will remember

them; he will not forget the cry of the afflicted. **R** ¹³Have pity on me, O Lord; see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gate of death; ¹⁴So that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation in the gates of the city of Zion. **R** ¹⁵The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug, and in the snare they set is their own foot caught. ¹⁶The Lord is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands. ¹⁷The wicked shall be given over to the grave, and also all the peoples that forget God. ¹⁸For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever. **R** ¹⁹Rise up, O Lord, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; let them be judged before you. ²⁰Put fear upon them, O Lord; let the ungodly know they are but mortal. **R**

PSALM 9:9–20

Or

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

⁵⁷On David’s return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.” ¹When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ²Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. ³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armour, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. ⁵David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. ¹⁰The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing

the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; ¹¹and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice. ¹²Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. ¹³So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. ¹⁴David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. ¹⁵When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. ¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

1 SAMUEL 17:57—18:5, 10–16

PSALM

Refrain **How good it is for all to live together in unity.** ¹Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity! ²It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, ³Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe. **R** ⁴It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion. ⁵For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore. **R** PSALM 133

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

¹As we work together with Christ, 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. ¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also. 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1–13

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” MARK 4:35–41

SUNDAY BETWEEN 26 JUNE AND 2 JULY

PROPER 13

2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17–27; PSALM 130;
2 CORINTHIANS 8:7–15; MARK 5:21–43

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. ¹⁷David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. ¹⁸(He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: ¹⁹Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. ²¹You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. ²²From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. ²³Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. ²⁴O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. ²⁵How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. ²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. ²⁷How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17–27

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord shall redeem us from all our sins.** ¹Out of the depths have I called to

you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **R** ²If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? ³For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared. **R** ⁴I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. ⁵My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. **R** ⁶O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; ⁷With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R** PSALM 130

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance

between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.” 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7–15

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

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the

crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” ³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

MARK 5:21–43

SUNDAY BETWEEN 3 JULY AND 9 JULY

PROPER 14

2 SAMUEL 5:1–5, 9–10; PSALM 48;
2 CORINTHIANS 12:2–10; MARK 6:1–13

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. ²For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.” ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. ⁹David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. ¹⁰And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him. 2 SAMUEL 5:1–5, 9–10

PSALM

Refrain **God shall be our guide for evermore.**

¹Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; in the city of our God is his holy hill. ²Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, the very centre of the world and the city of the great king. ³God is in her citadels; he is known to be her sure refuge. R ⁴Behold, the kings of the earth assembled and marched forward together. ⁵They looked and were astounded; they retreated and fled in terror. ⁶Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them. R ⁷As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the Lord

of hosts, in the city of our God; God has established her for ever. ⁸We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple. ⁹Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world’s end; your right hand is full of justice. R ¹⁰Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements. ¹¹Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; count the number of her towers. R ¹²Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; that you may tell those who come after. ¹³This God is our God for ever and ever; he shall be our guide for evermore. R PSALM 48

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me,

⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2–10

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

¹Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offence at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are

not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

MARK 6:1–13

SUNDAY BETWEEN 10 JULY AND 16 JULY

PROPER 15

2 SAMUEL 6:1–5, 12B–19; PSALM 24;
EPHESIANS 1:3–14; MARK 6:14–29

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all

the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ^{12B}So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with

the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes. 2 SAMUEL 6:1-5, 12B-19

PSALM

Refrain **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?" ⁹"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?" ¹¹"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." R PSALM 24

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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.

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John,

bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. 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 6:14-29

SUNDAY BETWEEN 17 JULY AND 23 JULY

PROPER 16

2 SAMUEL 7:1-14A; PSALM 89:20-37;
EPHESIANS 2:11-22; MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to

shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 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.

2 SAMUEL 7:1–14A

PSALM

Refrain **I will keep my love for him for ever.**

²⁰I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him. ²¹My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong. **R** ²²No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down. ²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. **R** ²⁴My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my name. ²⁵I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River. **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** ³⁰If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my judgements; ³¹If they break my statutes and do not keep my commandments; ³²I will punish their transgressions with a rod and their iniquities with the lash; **R** ³³But I will not take my love from him, nor let my faithfulness prove false. ³⁴I will not break my covenant, nor change what has gone out of my lips. ³⁵Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: ‘I will not lie to David. **R** ³⁶His line shall endure for ever and his throne as the sun before me; ³⁷It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, the abiding witness in the sky.’” **R** PSALM 89:20–37

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now 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 2:11–22

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a

deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.
MARK 6:30–34, 53–56

SUNDAY BETWEEN 24 JULY AND 30 JULY

PROPER 17
2 SAMUEL 11:1–15; PSALM 14;
EPHESIANS 3:14–21; JOHN 6:1–21

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ²It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." ⁶So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's

house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹²Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, ¹³David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

2 SAMUEL 11:1–15

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all.** ¹The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good. ²The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God. R ³Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; there is none who does good; no, not one. ⁴Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord? R ⁵See how they tremble with fear, because God is in the company of the righteous. ⁶Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, but the Lord is their refuge. R ⁷Oh, that Israel’s deliverance would come out of Zion! when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.
R PSALM 14

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹⁴I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. EPHESIANS 3:14–21

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

¹After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. ¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three

or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; do not

be afraid.” ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going. JOHN 6:1–21

SUNDAY BETWEEN 31 JULY AND 6 AUGUST

PROPER 18

2 SAMUEL 11:26—12:13A; PSALM 51:1–13;

EPHESIANS 4:1–16; JOHN 6:24–35

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, ¹and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.” ⁵Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” ⁷Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you

the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹²For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.” ¹³David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

2 SAMUEL 11:26—12:13A

PSALM

Refrain Create in me a clean heart, O God.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. R ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. R ⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. ⁶Indeed, I have

been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. R ⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. ⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. R ⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. ¹⁰Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. R ¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹²Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me. ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R *Refrain* **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

PSALM 51:1-13

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each 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." ⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) 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 4:1-16

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him 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 6:24-35

SUNDAY BETWEEN 7 AUGUST AND 13 AUGUST

PROPER 19

2 SAMUEL 18:5–9, 15, 31–33; PSALM 130;
EPHESIANS 4:25—5:2; JOHN 6:35, 41–51

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

⁵The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. ⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. ⁹Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁵And ten young men, Joab’s armour-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. ³¹Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” ³²The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.” ³³The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!” 2 SAMUEL 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord shall redeem us from all our sins.** ¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **R** ²If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? ³For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared. **R** ⁴I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. ⁵My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. **R** ⁶O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; ⁷With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R** PSALM 130

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be

kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. EPHESIANS 4:25—5:2

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

³⁵Jesus said to the people, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³Jesus

answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” JOHN 6:35, 41–51

SUNDAY BETWEEN 14 AUGUST AND 20 AUGUST

PROPER 20

1 KINGS 2:10–12; 3:3–14;
EPHESIANS 5:15–20; JOHN 6:51–58

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

¹⁰Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. ³Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And

Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this

your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

1 KINGS 2:10–12; 3:3–14

PSALM

Refrain **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.** ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. ²Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them. **R** ³His work is full of majesty and splendour, and his righteousness endures for ever. ⁴He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. **R** ⁵He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. ⁶He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations. **R** ⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure. ⁸They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. **R** ⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name. ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever. **R** PSALM 111

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:15–20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said to the people, ⁵¹“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” JOHN 6:51–58

SUNDAY BETWEEN 21 AUGUST AND 27 AUGUST

PROPER 21

1 KINGS 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43; PSALM 84;
EPHESIANS 6:10–20; JOHN 6:56–69

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

[¹Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. ⁶Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ¹⁰And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.]

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven

cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. ⁴¹Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.”

1 KINGS 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43

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. **R** 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 *Refrain* **Happy are the people whose strength is in you!** PSALM 84

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer

and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

EPHESIANS 6:10–20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” JOHN 6:56–69

SUNDAY BETWEEN 28 AUGUST AND 3 SEPTEMBER

PROPER 22

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8–13; PSALM 45:1–2, 7–10;
JAMES 1:17–27; MARK 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

A READING FROM THE SONG OF SOLOMON

⁸The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. ⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. ¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8–13

PSALM

Refrain **God has blessed you for ever.** 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. **R** ³Your 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. **R** 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. **R** PSALM 45:1–2, 7–10

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

JAMES 1:17–27

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, ²they noticed that some of his

disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in

vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” ¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

MARK 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

SUNDAY BETWEEN 4 SEPTEMBER AND 10 SEPTEMBER

PROPER 23

PROVERBS 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; PSALM 125;
JAMES 2:1–10 (11–13), 14–17; MARK 7:24–37

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold. ²The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. ⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. ²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; ²³for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them. PROVERBS 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

PSALM

Refrain **Those who trust in the Lord stand fast for ever.** ¹Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever. ²The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore. R

³The sceptre of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil. R ⁴Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart. ⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel. R PSALM 125

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and

become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

[¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

JAMES 2:1–10 (11–13), 14–17

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” MARK 7:24–37

SUNDAY BETWEEN 11 SEPTEMBER AND 17 SEPTEMBER

PROPER 24

PROVERBS 1:20–33; PSALM 19 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26—8:1 AS CANTICLE;
JAMES 3:1–12; MARK 8:27–38

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

²⁰Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. ²¹At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²²“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? ²³Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, ²⁵and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, ²⁷when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, ³⁰would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, ³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. ³²For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.” PROVERBS 1:20–33

PSALM

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 offense. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. PSALM 19

Or

CANTICLE

Refrain **Wisdom is an image of God's goodness; she orders all things well.**

²⁶Wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an

image of his goodness. **R** ²⁷Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; ²⁸for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. **R** ²⁹She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, ³⁰for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. ¹She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well. **R** *Refrain* **Wisdom is an image of God's goodness; she orders all things well.**

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26—8:1

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. **JAMES 3:1–12**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” **MARK 8:27–38**

SUNDAY BETWEEN 18 SEPTEMBER AND 24 SEPTEMBER

PROPER 25

PROVERBS 31:10–31; PSALM 1;

JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7–8A; MARK 9:30–37

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

¹⁰A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. ¹⁵She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. ²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ²⁹“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. ³¹Give her a share in the fruit

of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates. PROVERBS 31:10–31

PSALM

Refrain **Happy are they who trust in the Lord.** ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ²Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night. **R** ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. ⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. **R** ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

R PSALM 1

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7–8A

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

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it;

³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” MARK 9:30–37

SUNDAY BETWEEN 25 SEPTEMBER AND 1 OCTOBER

PROPER 26

ESTHER 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22; PSALM 124;

JAMES 5:13–20; MARK 9:38–50

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

¹So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the

king.” ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. ²⁰Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they

should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

ESTHER 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22

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

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six

months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

JAMES 5:13–20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

³⁸John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. ⁴²If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

MARK 9:38–50

SUNDAY BETWEEN 2 OCTOBER AND 8 OCTOBER

PROPER 27

JOB 1:1, 2:1–10; PSALM 26;
HEBREWS 1:1–4, 2:5–12; MARK 10:2–16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

¹There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ¹One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ³The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” ⁴Then Satan answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.” ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” ¹⁰But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. JOB 1:1, 2:1–10

PSALM

Refrain Do not sweep me away with sinners.

¹Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. ²Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind. ³For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. R ⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. ⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked. R ⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, ⁷Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds. ⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides. R ⁹Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with those who thirst for blood, ¹⁰Whose hands are full of evil plots, and their right hand full of bribes. R ¹¹As for me, I will live with integrity; redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me. ¹²My foot stands on level ground; in the full assembly I will bless the Lord. R PSALM 26

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. ⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” HEBREWS 1:1–4, 2:5–12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” ¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. MARK 10:2–16

SUNDAY BETWEEN 9 OCTOBER AND 15 OCTOBER

PROPER 28

JOB 23:1–9, 16–17; PSALM 22:1–15;
HEBREWS 4:12–16; MARK 10:17–31

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

¹Then Job answered: ²“Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. ³Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! ⁴I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. ⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. ⁷There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. ⁸If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; ⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. ¹⁶God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; ¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!” JOB 23:1–9, 16–17

PSALM

Refrain **You were my God from my mother’s womb.** 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. ³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel. R ⁴Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. 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 potsherd; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave. R PSALM 22:1–15

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. 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.

HEBREWS 4:12–16

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

¹⁷As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the

kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

MARK 10:17–31

SUNDAY BETWEEN 16 OCTOBER AND 22 OCTOBER

PROPER 29

JOB 38:1–7 (34–41); PSALM 104:1–9, 25, 37B;
HEBREWS 5:1–10; MARK 10:35–45

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

¹Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”

[³⁴“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? ³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? ³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? ³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, ³⁸when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? ³⁹Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? ⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry

to God, and wander about for lack of food?"]
JOB 38:1–7 (34–41)

PSALM

Refrain **Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all.** ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness! you are clothed with majesty and splendour. ²You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and spread out the heavens like a curtain. **R** ³You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind. ⁴You make the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants. ⁵You have set the earth upon its foundations, so that it never shall move at any time. **R** ⁶You covered it with the deep as with a mantle; the waters stood higher than the mountains. ⁷At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away. ⁸They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, to the places you had appointed for them. ⁹You set the limits that they should not pass; they shall not again cover the earth. **R** ²⁵O Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ^{37B}Hallelujah! **R**

PSALM 104:1–9, 25, 37B

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he

says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In 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, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

HEBREWS 5:1–10

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

MARK 10:35–45

SUNDAY BETWEEN 23 OCTOBER AND 29 OCTOBER

PROPER 30

JOB 42:1–6, 10–17; PSALM 34:1–8 (19–22);
HEBREWS 7:23–28; MARK 10:46–52

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

¹Then Job answered the Lord: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴“Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.” ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶“therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” ¹⁰And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. ¹⁷And Job died, old and full of days. JOB 42:1–6, 10–17

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**

[¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver him out of them all. ²⁰He will keep safe all his bones; not one of them shall be broken. **R** ²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. ²²The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, and none will be punished who trust in him. **R**] PSALM 34:1–8 (19–22)

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

²³Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶For it was fitting that

we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

HEBREWS 7:23–28

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

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho,

Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵²Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

MARK 10:46–52

SUNDAY BETWEEN 30 OCTOBER AND 5 NOVEMBER

PROPER 31

RUTH 1:1–18; PSALM 146;
HEBREWS 9:11–14; MARK 12:28–34

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then she started to return with her

daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my

daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons,¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.”¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.¹⁵So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.¹⁷Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. RUTH 1:1–18

PSALM

Refrain Praise the Lord, O my soul!
¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. R
²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.³When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. R
⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. R
⁷The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; R
⁸The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. R
⁹The Lord shall reign for ever, your

God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah! R PSALM 146

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹¹But when 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!
HEBREWS 9:11–14

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”
²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’;³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question. MARK 12:28–34

SUNDAY BETWEEN 6 NOVEMBER AND 12 NOVEMBER

PROPER 32

RUTH 3:1–5, 4:13–17; PSALM 127;
HEBREWS 9:24–28; MARK 2:38–44

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

¹Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ²Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” ⁵She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.” ¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. RUTH 3:1–5, 4:13–17

PSALM

Refrain **Happy are they who fear the Lord.**

¹Unless the Lord builds the house, their labour is in vain who build it. ²Unless the Lord watches over the city, in vain the watchman keeps his

vigil. R ³It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep. R ⁴Children are a heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. ⁵Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. ⁶Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! he shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate. R PSALM 127

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. HEBREWS 9:24–28

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

³⁸As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at

banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." ⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then

he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

MARK 12:38–44

SUNDAY BETWEEN 13 NOVEMBER AND 19 NOVEMBER

PROPER 33

1 SAMUEL 1:4–20; 1 SAMUEL 2:1–10 AS CANTICLE;
HEBREWS 10:11–14 (15–18), 19–25; MARK 13:1–8

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; ⁵but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" ⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine

nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." ¹²As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." ¹⁵But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." ¹⁷Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." ¹⁸And she said, "Let your servant find favour in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. ¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." 1 SAMUEL 1:4–20

CANTICLE

Refrain **My heart exults in the Lord; I rejoice in your salvation.** My heart exults in the Lord, my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. There is no Holy One like you, O Lord, nor any Rock like you, our God. For you are a God of knowledge and by you our actions are weighed. R The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full now search bread, but those who were hungry are well fed. The barren woman has borne sevenfold, but she who has many children is forlorn. Both the poor and the rich are of your making, you bring low and you also exalt. R You raise us the poor from the dust, and lift the needy from the ash heap. You make them sit with the rulers, and inherit a place of honour. For the pillars of the earth are yours and on them you have set the world. R 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

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A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

¹¹And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

[¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 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 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

¹As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” ³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.” MARK 13:1-8

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: THE REIGN OF CHRIST

PROPER 34

2 SAMUEL 23:1–7; PSALM 132:1–13 (14–19);
REVELATION 1:4B–8; JOHN 18:33–37

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

¹Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Strong One of Israel: ²The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. ³The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, ⁴is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. ⁵Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? ⁶But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; ⁷to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot. 2 SAMUEL 23:1–7

PSALM

Refrain **The Lord will dwell in Zion for ever.**

¹Lord, remember David, and all the hardships he endured; ²How he swore an oath to the Lord and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: ³“I will not come under the roof of my house, nor climb up into my bed; ⁴I will not allow my eyes to sleep, nor let my eyelids slumber; ⁵Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.” R ⁶“The ark! We heard it was in Ephrathah; 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 ¹¹The Lord has sworn an oath to David; in truth, he will not break it: ¹²“A son, the fruit of your body will I set upon your throne. ¹³If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their children will sit upon your throne for evermore.” R

[¹⁴For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired her for his habitation: ¹⁵“This shall be my resting-place for ever; here will I dwell, for I delight in her. R ¹⁶I will surely bless her provisions, and satisfy her poor with bread. ¹⁷I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her faithful people will rejoice and sing. R ¹⁸There will I make the horn of David flourish; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. ¹⁹As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; but as for him, his crown will shine.” R]

PSALM 132:1–13 (14–19)

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

^{4B}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth

will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

REVELATION 1:4B-8

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

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate 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?”

³⁶Jesus 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.” ³⁷Pilate 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.” JOHN 18:33-37